



Disability and Guardianship Project
Disability and Abuse Project

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October 1, 2015

Ms. Vanita Gupta, Division Chief
Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Due Process Plus: A White Paper to the U.S. Department of Justice

Dear Ms. Gupta:

We are pleased to send you a set of documents designed to assist the Department of Justice as it evaluates the performance of state courts that process adult guardianship cases involving respondents who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our research has not discovered any existing publications or written materials that offer significant advice to help courts comply with their obligations under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that such guardianship respondents receive access to justice. Much has been written about modifications of policies and practices to provide accommodations to litigants and witnesses who have visual, hearing, and mobility disabilities. Very little information and advice focuses on the responsibilities of courts to make necessary modifications for the benefit of litigants and witnesses who have cognitive and related communication disabilities. This White Paper fills that informational void.

In addition to the White Paper, we are also enclosing the reference materials it cites. Because the reference materials are so voluminous, we have created a User's Guide to help readers navigate through those references more easily. The White Paper and associated materials are available online at: www.spectruminstitute.org/white-paper

We plan to distribute a brochure about this new resource to state courts throughout the nation, as well as to disability rights advocates and disability services organizations. State and local bar associations will also receive the brochure as will law schools.

We trust that the DOJ will find these materials helpful as it investigates complaints against state courts. We believe they will also assist the DOJ to create its own materials providing guidance to judges, administrators and attorneys who participate in guardianship and conservatorship proceedings.

Respectfully submitted:

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cc: Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, Disability Rights Section