NEW JERSEY'S DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY.

DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY

ADVANCING JUSTICE. ADVOCATING INCLUSION.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 16, 2024

FEDERAL JUDGE GRANTS DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY'S MOTION TO ENFORCE ITS RIGHT TO ACCESS ESSEX COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

TRENTON, NJ – On October 11, 2024, a federal judge granted Disability Rights New Jersey's motion to enforce its right under federal law to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect at Essex County Juvenile Detention Center. This order reinforces one of the most important functions of a Protection and Advocacy system – access to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect.

Disability Rights New Jersey is the state's designated Protection and Advocacy agency under federal law. Congress created the Protection and Advocacy system to ensure that the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities are protected. Disability Rights New Jersey investigates allegations of abuse and neglect against people with disabilities in institutional settings, like juvenile detention centers. The ability to access these settings is integral to Disability Rights New Jersey's mandate to protect and advocate for people with disabilities.

Under this investigative access authority, Disability Rights New Jersey has a right to access the physical building where people with disabilities live and receive services, speak with individuals in the facility, and access certain records to conduct a thorough investigation.

As a result of this order, Disability Rights New Jersey will promptly investigate these serious allegations concerning Essex County Juvenile Detention Center to protect the rights of the youth at the facility. A link to the order can be found **here**.

If you have any allegations to report or want more information, please contact Disability Rights New Jersey's intake team, toll-free in New Jersey at (800) 922-7233 or by emailing **intakeunit@disabilityrightsnj.org**.

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NEW JERSEY'S DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY.

About Disability Rights New Jersey:

As New Jersey's designated Protection and Advocacy system for people with disabilities, under federal law, Disability Rights New Jersey promotes self-determination, independence, and inclusion into all facets of community life. Disability Rights New Jersey advances the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities through a wide array of advocacy services for individuals, their families, and other stakeholders. Accordingly, Disability Rights New Jersey also has statutory authority to pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of people with disabilities and adherence to the law.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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