



You Did It!

Since 1995 FDLA has worked around-the-clock to fill a crucial gap in the criminal justice system with on-call pro bono attorneys, while building hope, knowledge and power in overpoliced communities to access their Constitutional rights



How Chicago lawyers and over-policed community members achieved a culminating victory in the larger campaign to end incommunicado detention in Chicago police stations 1995-2019+

Policy Demonstration
& Incubation



Know-Your-Rights
Education &
Leadership
Development



Policy Advocacy &
Public Partnerships



1995	✓ Lawyers, community and youth justice advocates organize a volunteer-run 24-hour hotline deploying free counsel to arrestees who request it. The hotline remains open 24/7/365 to this day.
2002	✓ FDLA becomes a nonprofit corporation engaging three strategies for demonstrating a robust policy model for ending incommunicado detention in police investigations: the hotline, know your rights popular education, and policy advocacy.
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ UN Committee on Drugs and Crime shows causal link between access to attorneys upon arrest, grassroots know-your-rights education campaigns, and reduced violent crime.✓ FDLA launches Strategic plan 2012-2018 to secure universal, 24-hour access to legal representation for arrestees free of charge.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Chicago police report only 0.2% of people under arrest ever have legal representation, the highest rate on record at the time.✓ FDLA launches grassroots popular education campaign and action research on issues of access to counsel upon arrest.✓ System-involved youth and adults inform FDLA's 5-pronged policy agenda for universal access to counsel for arrestees including changes to allow public defenders to begin representation

	immediately, know your rights education starting in middle school, and access to phones to call one's attorney upon arrest.
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chicago police report only 0.3% of people under arrest ever have legal representation, the highest rate on record at the time. ✓ FDLA visits and learns from British and French systems for universal access to counsel for arrestees. ✓ University of California at Irvine Law Review predicts over \$14 million in annual savings when everyone can access counsel upon arrest.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chicago police report only 0.6% of people under arrest ever have legal representation, the highest rate on record at the time. ✓ Incommunicado detention in CPD custody is international, national and local breaking news. ✓ UN Committee on Incommunicado Detention investigates access to counsel for arrestees in Chicago.
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chicago police report only 1.0% of people under arrest ever have legal representation, the highest rate on record at the time. ✓ Cook County Public Defender Amy Campanelli commits to representing custodial suspects. ✓ Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle publicly supports public defense for arrestees. ✓ Mayor's Taskforce for Police Accountability recommends FDLA's policy agenda. ✓ Mayor supports increased access to counsel for Chicago arrestees on CNN.
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chief Judge Tim Evans issues a general order appointing counsel for anyone in police custody who wants a lawyer. ✓ Cook County State's Attorney Kim Fox supports access to counsel for arrestees. ✓ Chicago police report only 1.5% of people under arrest ever have legal representation, the highest rate on record to date. ✓ Chicago police commit to posting notice of how to access free legal defense in police custody throughout every facility. ✓ Assistant public defenders respond to hotline calls during business hours, going to the police stations for the first time in history.
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Agreed consent decree draft from the City and Illinois Attorney General includes assurances for access to counsel upon arrest. ✓ City of Chicago sets goal of increasing access to counsel to at least 10.0% asap and establishes a grant fund supporting community-based organizations to promote critical know-your-rights information in the 18 wards represented by members of the Aldermanic Black Caucus.
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Office of the Cook County Public Defender assumes full responsibility for staffing the hotline with their attorneys 24/7/365. ✓ FDLA community education and policy advocacy continue until everyone can access their right to counsel upon arrest ✓ FDLA launches new mission and strategic plan for demonstrating and incubating additional interventions and alternatives to unnecessary incarceration and police engagement.

