

# SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH ABI OR INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD) THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

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# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Surrey Place
3. Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)
4. Definition of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
5. Similarities between IDD and ABI
6. Developmental Justice Case Manager Role at the Downtown East Justice Centre
7. ABI in the Justice System
8. What works to support individuals through the criminal justice system

# Introduction

- ▶ Melissa McMillan - Developmental Justice Case Manager – Downtown East Justice Centre, Toronto

# Introduction: Surrey Place

- Surrey Place serves individuals of all ages with autism, developmental and sensory-related concerns
- Interdisciplinary clinical services, including, but not limited to:
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Behaviour Therapy
  - Psychology
  - Nursing
  - Psychiatry
  - Medical Services



Visit [www.surreyplace.ca](http://www.surreyplace.ca) for more information!

For information on the Surrey Place Developmental Disabilities Primary Care program, visit

<https://ddprimarycare.surreyplace.ca/>



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# Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)

- DSO Toronto region is housed at Surrey Place
- DSO is the access point for adult developmental services funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in Ontario
- To be considered eligible, individuals must be 18 years or older, living in Ontario, and have a confirmed intellectual disability diagnosis
- ❖ An individual may be eligible for the DSO if their ABI happened before the age of 18

# What is Intellectual Developmental Disability (IDD)?

## Support needs in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior:

- ▶ Intellectual functioning - general mental capacity such as learning, reasoning, or problem solving
- ▶ Adaptive behavior - conceptual, social, and practical skills

### MILD

**AGE EQUIVALENCE:**

9-12 years

**GRADE:**

up to grade 7

### MODERATE

**AGE EQUIVALENCE:**

6-9 years

**GRADE:**

up to grade 4

### SEVERE

**AGE EQUIVALENCE:**

3-6 years

**GRADE:**

up to grade 1

### PROFOUND

**AGE EQUIVALENCE:**

0-3 years

# Similarities Between IDD and ABI

- ▶ Some possible difficulties or behaviours someone with an ABI or IDD may experience include:
  - memory loss
  - attention deficits and problems with concentration
  - problem-solving deficits
  - emotion dysregulation
  - anger/impulse control problems

# Downtown East Justice Centre (DTE-JC)

## Partnership between the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG), City of Toronto and Surrey Place

- ▶ The Toronto DTE focuses on preventing high-needs individuals at the intersection of poverty, homelessness, isolation, mental health and addictions from cycling through the criminal justice system by addressing criminogenic risk factors with on-site, wrap-around psychiatric, primary care and addictions medicine and development disability supports
- ▶ Surrey Place provides specialized case management supports at the DTE Justice Centre for people with developmental disabilities, brain injuries, mental health and addiction concerns, with low to moderate level offences
- ▶ The goal of the DTE-JC is to reduce jail time and recidivism rates by connecting people to services
- ▶ These services can include:
  - Supports through Developmental Services Ontario
  - Drop-in mental health and substance use services
  - Learning and life skills programs
  - Community Victim Support Worker
  - Employment training, and more!





# Brain Injury In the Justice System

- ▶ Estimated 50% of incarcerated individuals have an ABI as opposed to 12% in the general population (de Geus et al., 2021)
- ▶ Individuals with a TBI are about 2.5 times more likely to be incarcerated than the general population (Mclsaac et al., 2016)
- ▶ Justice involvement could be due to cognitive, emotional, behavioural, or memory related concerns, and/or substance use
- ▶ Behaviours can be perceived as defiant or uncooperative, leading to connection and/or poor outcomes in the criminal justice system

# What works to support individuals through the Criminal Justice System

- ▶ Wrap around supports to address the root causes of criminal behaviour
  - Medical services
  - Case management
  - Housing support
  - Addiction supports
  - Community hub
  - Building an individualized support plan

# Justice Resources

- ▶ Toronto ABI Network - <https://abinetwork.ca/>
- ▶ Community Legal Education Ontario - <https://www.cleo.on.ca/en>
- ▶ ARCH Disability Law Centre - <https://archdisabilitylaw.ca/>
- ▶ ABI Justice - <https://www.abijustice.org/>
- ▶ Cota - <https://cotainspires.ca/>

# References

- ▶ de Geus, Esther Q J, et al. "Acquired Brain Injury and Interventions in the Offender Population: A Systematic Review." *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 7 May 2021, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8138134/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8138134/).
- ▶ Chan, Vincy, et al. "Rehabilitation among Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury Who Intersect with the Criminal Justice System: A Scoping Review." *Frontiers in Neurology*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 17 Jan. 2023, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9886883/#:~:text=Among%20individuals%20who%20intersect%20with%20or%20are%20involved%20in%20the,among%20people%20who%20experienced%20incarceration.](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9886883/#:~:text=Among%20individuals%20who%20intersect%20with%20or%20are%20involved%20in%20the,among%20people%20who%20experienced%20incarceration.)
- ▶ McIsaac, Kathryn E., et al. "Association between Traumatic Brain Injury and Incarceration: A Population-Based Cohort Study." *CMAJ Open*, Canadian Medical Association Open Access Journal, 8 Dec. 2016, [www.cmajopen.ca/content/4/4/E746.full](http://www.cmajopen.ca/content/4/4/E746.full).

# Contact Information

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# Human k You



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