

## NOTICE FOR PRISONERS WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAILS - CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

In 1998, prisoners in the Los Angeles County Jail filed a lawsuit to complain about disability discrimination in the Jail. These prisoners had disabilities that made it hard for them to walk, stand or move. These disabilities are called **mobility impairments**.

These prisoners complained that they needed wheelchairs, crutches and other help from the jail. The prisoners said that they did not get the help they needed. The prisoners also said that they could not join in jail programs, such as chapel, school, recreation and job training.

The Defendants in the lawsuit are the Los Angeles County Sheriff, the Sheriff's Department, and the County of Los Angeles. The lawsuit was based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is also called the ADA. It is called the "**Johnson lawsuit**" after one of the prisoners, Peter Johnson.

Now the prisoners and the Sheriff have agreed to settle the lawsuit. The Sheriff has agreed to:

- Improvements to three County jail buildings to make them easier for prisoners with disabilities to use.
- Better procedures for getting a wheelchair and other help from the Jail.
- Special staff, called ADA coordinators, who will help prisoners in each jail who have problems or want to file a complaint. The Sheriff will also give prisoners more information about their rights under the ADA.

The federal court has to approve this settlement. People with mobility impairments who are in the Jail now or were in the jail in the past can object to this settlement by writing a letter to the lawyers for the prisoners. **THE DEADLINE TO MAIL OBJECTIONS IS JANUARY 12, 2015.** You do not have to do anything if you do not object to the settlement.

You can get MORE DETAILS about the settlement from these websites:

<https://thedrlc.org>

[www.aclusocal.org](http://www.aclusocal.org)

[www.mcj.lasd.org](http://www.mcj.lasd.org)

[www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org](http://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org),

<http://sheriff.lacounty.gov>,

<http://lacounty.gov>.

You can also email the lawyers representing the class members at [info@thedrlc.org](mailto:info@thedrlc.org) or send a letter to: Johnson Settlement Lawyers, c/o Disability Rights Legal Center, 1001 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100 #3201, Los Angeles, CA 90017.