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NEW YORK

New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DRNY Finds Proposed NYS Jail Regulations on Segregated Confinement Lacking

Albany, NY – January 10, 2018 – DRNY identified serious deficiencies in New York State's proposed amendments on "Inmate Confinement and Deprivation" in jails. Specifically, the proposed regulations fail to address the needs of people with disabilities and the significant risk of harm when placing people with disabilities in segregated confinement. Inmates with serious mental illness are disproportionately punished in jails with segregated confinement. Once in these segregated settings, many experience mental health deterioration from the isolating conditions and the lack of mental health treatment.

"These regulations fail to address the extreme hardship that segregated confinement causes those with serious mental illness and other disabilities," said DRNY Executive Director Timothy A. Clune. "While DRNY's recommendations will improve the regulation, ultimately, New York State should be taking steps to eliminate the use of segregated confinement for people with disabilities and provide critical mental health services."

DRNY's comments are found here: <http://bit.ly/2D8XZuM>

DRNY is the designated independent non-profit Protection & Advocacy System empowered by Congress to provide legal and non-legal advocacy services to people with disabilities in New York. The Protection & Advocacy System was created by Congress as a direct result of the horrific conditions that were uncovered in the 1970s at New York's Willowbrook State School. DRNY investigates allegations of abuse and neglect and advocates for the civil and legal rights of people with disabilities.

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