

P&A TiDBITS

LEGAL NEWS & other
Disability-Related info

MAY

2019



to the Wyoming Legislature!

Just in Time for Elections 2020

Enrolled Act HEA0013 sponsored by the Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Interim Committee, entitled "Election readiness account," will provide counties with funding to replace old voting machines. Funds in the account shall be subject to appropriation and shall only be used for replacement and maintenance of voting systems and other ongoing election costs as allowed by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Disbursements and expenditures from the account shall be made at the discretion of the Secretary of State in consultation with the county clerks. The act appropriates seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) from the general fund to the election readiness account.

Source: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/2019/Summaries/HB0021.pdf>



CONNECT, CREATE, CONTRIBUTE MAY 2019

CONGRATS!



DISABILITY LAW
COLORADO

Colorado Agrees to Overhaul System for Evaluating, Treating Mentally Incompetent Criminal Defendants

In March 2019, a consent decree was approved requiring Colorado to overhaul its evaluation and treatment of mentally incompetent criminal defendants, ending a twelve-year long legal battle over how to keep them from languishing in county jails.

The Colorado Department of Human Services agreed to hire a cadre of new clinicians, tighten certain treatment deadlines and shift care for many criminal defendants from state psychiatric hospitals to community-based programs. If it doesn't, the state could face fines of up to \$10 million a year — a new cudgel meant to ensure the state keeps its promises after it broke the terms of two previous settlements.

The state's capitulation marks the most sweeping changes in its legal battle with Disability Law Colorado, a Denver-based nonprofit that first sued the agency in 2012 after mentally incompetent criminal defendants — often facing minor, nonviolent charges — were found suffering in county jails for months while awaiting treatment at the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo.

FOR MORE
INFO

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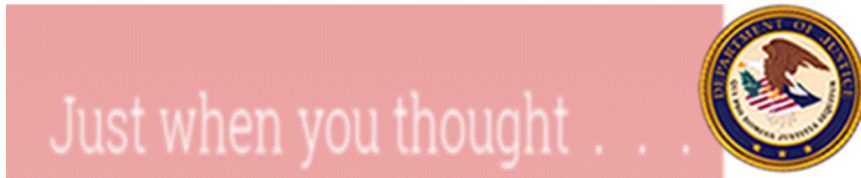
Friday's agreement largely mirrored a trove of recommendations issued by a court-appointed special master, who criticized the state's current system as "scattershot" and "untethered to a unified, cohesive vision" in a January report.

Also, the same court-appointed special master will monitor the department's progress and approve of any plans it devises. It also requires the department to create a plan for more widespread reforms — one that creates a more community-based treatment system for those defendants. "That is our main goal — is that people who do not need to be institutionalized will not be," said Alison Butler, the nonprofit's legal director.

The agreement is not a settlement, but a consent decree — a type of agreement meant to ensure quicker and more legally-enforceable compliance. Any fines will go into a trust designed specifically to fund community mental health services not associated with the agency.

Source: https://gazette.com/news/colorado-agrees-to-overhaul-system-for-evaluating-treating-mentally-incompetent/article_9f225fc0-476e-11e9-81a8-b7957f047fcf.html?fbclid=IwAROUYLIZDWVRIBtuBsj8VOvyqC2wFWzCv3uXWUsNe20gb3N1Ai0oW6sU8A

CONGRATS!



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Justice Department Reaches Settlement Agreement That Will Increase Options for CPA Exam

The U.S. Department of Justice entered a settlement agreement with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). The agreement will expand options available to individuals who are blind or have low vision in taking the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Exam.

Source: https://www.ada.gov/cpa_exam_sa.html

REMOVING BARRIERS



We're not out of the woods yet.

In the winter, snow can be a serious barrier to mobility and independence.



Registration is now **live** for the 2019
Annual Wyoming Developmental
Disabilities Conference!

FOR MORE INFO, GO TO:
<https://wgdd.wyo.gov/projects/WDDC>

Registration Deadline is June 7, 2019