



LEGAL RIGHTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

JASON SNEAD

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LEGAL RIGHTS

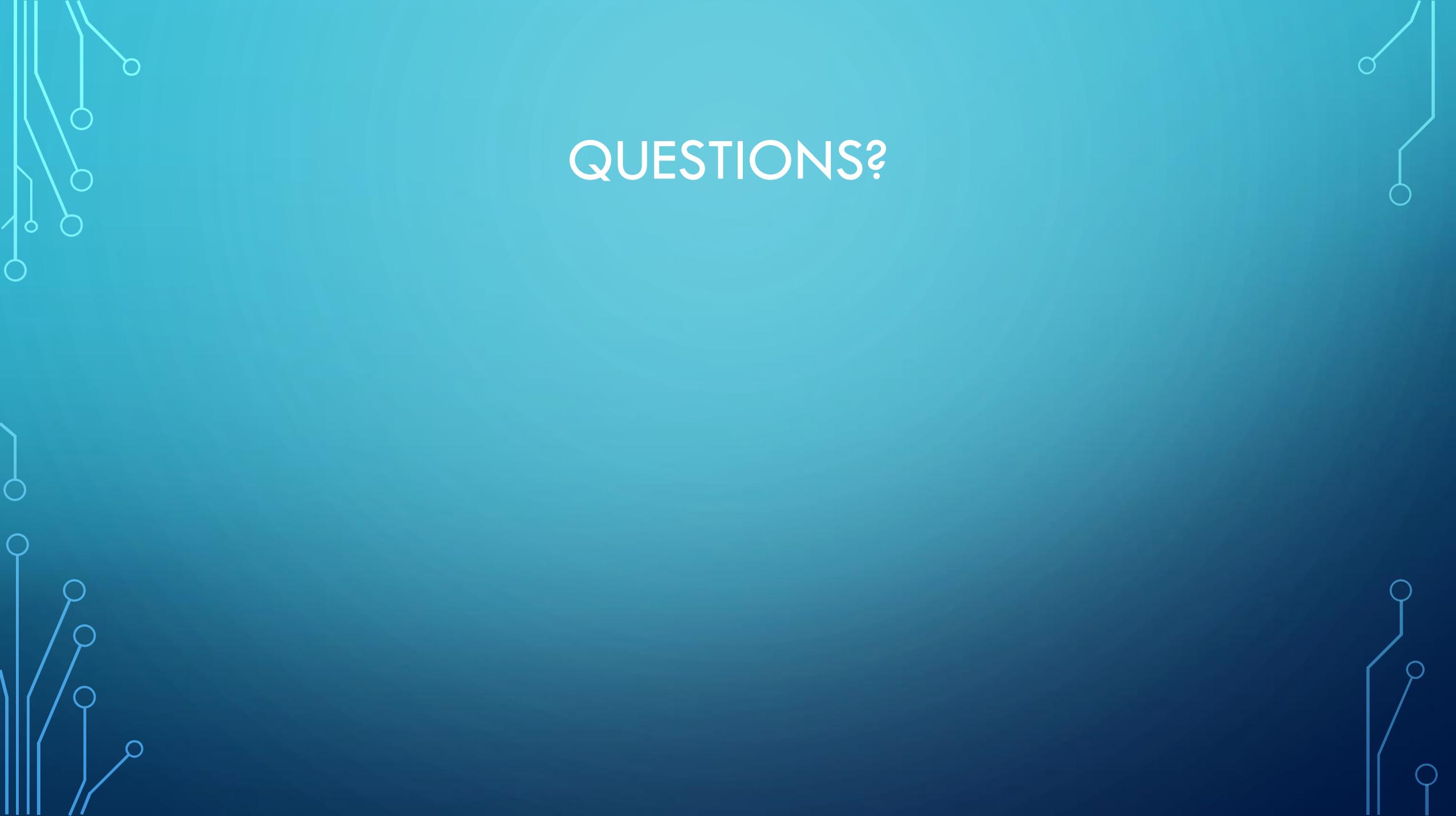
- Individuals with developmental disabilities have the same rights as any other American citizen under the Constitution. This includes the 6th amendment right to counsel, the Fifth Amendment right to remain silent, and the 8th amendment right which is protection against cruel or unusual punishment. When a person has been convicted of a crime a person must be able to understand his actions mentally in order to be convicted of a crime.

THE DILEMMA

- The vast majority of public defender's are not properly trained in the proper in representing people with intellectual disabilities. Recent studies indicate that almost 1 /3 of the prison population have some sort of intellectual disability.
- Which brings up the question:
- why aren't the public defender's better trained to represent people with intellectual disabilities?

HOW DO WE FIX IT?

- Legislation
- be a good resource
- an advocate



QUESTIONS?