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National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Comments
Social Security Administration,
3100 West High Rise Building,
6401 Security Boulevard,
Baltimore, Maryland 21235–6401

RE: Docket No. SSA–2016–0011

An Open Letter to the Social Security Administration:

The provisions of the proposed rule RIN 0960–AH95, Implementation of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, in Docket No. SSA-2016-0011, ought to be fully rejected.

The plans contained within this proposed rule are atrocious. Those who wrote this proposed rule ought to be ashamed of themselves. The language is horrific. The intent is discrimination against people with disabilities.

These proposals will in no way help anyone. The enactment of these proposals will destroy privacy rights. Privacy is a requirement for a well-rounded human experience. The suggestion that someone who has a disability—but even more specifically—someone who has a representative payee—may require this level of surveillance and rights removals is ludicrous. Is it not clear how degrading this inclusion of people with disabilities in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System is?

People with disabilities ought not be reported to the authorities because of those disabilities. This is a smoke screen. People with disabilities are not more violent than anyone else. This is a slippery slope. What happens when one’s speech is used as basis for “disability”? They are using this as a leverage point to limit constitutional rights for all. Relying on the processes of court-ordered psychiatry is a problem because the psychiatric court-order process is, itself, fraudulent. Further cramping down on people’s civil and constitutional liberties because of a court-ordered involvement with psychiatry is routinely offered as defense from court-ordered psychiatry, in the first place—if it is not seen as ‘too political’ a defense.

The entire Social Security Administration and specifically those responsible for the publication of this rule ought to be re-trained in their understanding of (dis)abilities for allowing this to be published.

At a very basic level, who is it that is going to do all of this proposed work? Who will write and process the rungs of new forms and processes to be followed–by whom–and for what pay?

And of those who get relief from the proposed rule, if passed, what really will that ‘relief’ be?

If this proposed rule is enacted, it will create more work for people working to protect constitutional, civil, and human rights in the United States of America. This proposed rule would not in any way prevent violence, crime, or anything else those project that it will accomplish.

This proposed rule, if passed, will simply exist as another tool to further dehumanize a population of people that any one could become part of, at a moment’s notice, based on the say-so of someone in institutional power.

The Social Security Administration ought to hold public hearings on this matter prior to going any further than a complete rejection of this proposed rule.

There is no improvement here, only plenty of more issues to grapple with, if successful. No part of this proposed rule ought to be passed.

Stop the criminalization of people with disabilities.

I am happy to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,

Lauren J. Tenney

Dr. Lauren J. Tenney, PhD, MPhil, MPA, Psychiatric Survivor

cc: The Public
Open Letter