

Guide to IAJ Publications on This Website

SIMPLIFIED PLAIN-LANGUAGE EDITION

For people who want to understand their rights and check how an official handled them.

Why this guide exists

The IAJ writes about human rights. Some IAJ papers use words meant for judges, lawyers, doctors, or other experts.

This edition explains the papers with common words and short sentences. It is written for readers at about a sixth- to eighth-grade reading level.

It helps you find a paper that may fit your problem. It also helps you ask careful questions about what an official did or failed to do.

This guide is not legal advice. It does not decide that your rights were violated. Only the facts and the law can show that.

Want more detail? Use the website's edition selector to open the detailed guide.

The one big idea

Three things are not the same:

1. You have a right.
2. There is a rule that names your right.
3. There is a real way to make the right happen.

An official may agree that a right exists but still fail to protect it, investigate a report, or fix a proven wrong. Many IAJ papers study the gap between a promise and what happens in real life.

The four questions — ask them every time, in order

1. What right do I have?

Name the right. Say where it comes from: the Constitution, a law, or a treaty. Not every unfair act breaks a legal right.

2. What did the official have to do?

Ask what the judge, agency, prosecutor, or officer had a legal duty to do. Keep binding law separate from the IAJ's view of what the law means or should require.

3. What did the official actually do — or fail to do?

Write the facts: dates, names, documents, exact words, actions, refusals, and harm. Record facts before choosing legal labels.

4. Did I get a real investigation, real protection, and a real fix?

A complaint form alone is not enough. Ask whether the response helped prevent more harm. Was there a prompt and fair investigation by people who were independent? Were the complainant, witnesses, and evidence protected? Could the process give a real remedy? Related duties appear across UNCAT Articles 2 and 12–14 and ICCPR Article 2(3).

How to use this guide

- Step 1. Write down what happened. List who acted, what each person did or refused to do, when it happened, what proof exists, and what harm followed.
- Step 2. Ask the four questions, in order. Keep the answers separate.
- Step 3. Pick one paper from the finder table below. Start with the shortest one that fits.
- Step 4. Read what the paper says it does not claim. Its limits matter as much as its conclusions.
- Step 5. Before using the paper with a court or agency, check the original laws and cases it cites.
- Step 6. If time or safety is at risk, get a lawyer or emergency help now. This guide contains no deadlines and cannot handle an emergency.

Word list — ten terms, in plain words

Torture — A legal category with several required parts. In short, it means severe physical or mental pain or suffering. It must be caused on purpose for a reason listed in the treaty, such as punishment, intimidation, getting information, or discrimination. An official must cause it, order it, consent to it, or knowingly fail to stop it when the official has a legal duty to act. Pain that comes only from a lawful sanction is excluded. Always check the full legal test.

Cruel treatment (CIDT) — Cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment tied to official action, consent, or acquiescence. It does not meet every part of the torture test, but it is also banned. Always check the full legal test.

Public official — A person acting with government power, such as a judge, prosecutor, police officer, or agency worker.

Treaty — A binding agreement between countries. The United States ratified UNCAT in 1994. Whether a treaty rule can be enforced directly in a U.S. court is a different question.

UNCAT — The United Nations Convention against Torture, the worldwide treaty against torture and cruel treatment.

Immunity — Rules that may limit a lawsuit or a remedy against an official or government. The result depends on who is sued, what happened, the legal claim, and the remedy requested. Immunity is not the same as deciding that no right exists.

Remedy — A legal response to a proven wrong. It may stop the harm, repair it, pay for losses, or help prevent it from happening again.

Effective remedy — A response that can make a real difference after a proven violation. The law may allow an investigation, protection, payment, or health care. It may also return what was lost or help stop the wrong from happening again.

Non-self-executing — A term used when a treaty rule does not, by itself, give a person a rule or remedy that a U.S. court can enforce directly. Congress may need to pass a law. Older laws or action outside court may also help carry out the treaty. The international promise still exists.

Acquiescence — An official is aware of prohibited activity and then fails to carry out a legal duty to step in. A simple mistake or failure to notice is not enough.

Quick finder: where should I start?

Find your situation on the left. Click the blue paper name on the right. The number points to the full entry below.

Your situation	Start with
I need the shortest overview of abuse tied to courts.	Quick Reference Guide on Judicial Torture and CIDT (#10)

Your situation	Start with
A court threw out my treaty claim by citing "Medellín."	The Completion of the Non-Self-Execution Analysis (#4)
An official is threatening me with serious harm now.	Quia Timet (#6) — and get emergency help first
A judge harmed me and immunity blocked every fix.	Structural Foreclosure (#12) , then Enhanced Constitutional Framework (#11)
A prosecutor ignored abuse by an official.	Prosecutorial Misconduct (#18) , then Criminal Enforcement Guide (#16)
State and federal prosecutors each blamed the other.	Collaborative Prosecution Framework (#17)
A court denied my disability accommodation or made my disability worse.	Harmonizing the Architecture of Disability Rights (#21)
The state separated me from my child.	Parent–Child Separation (#20) ; also the Lehman opinion (#5)
I need to understand a psychological evaluation.	Plain-Language Guide to Psychological Evaluation (#32) first
My tribal citizenship, ICWA, or treaty rights were ignored.	Indigenous Rights Quick Reference (#25)
I need an expert declaration for court.	Expert Witness Introduction (#27) , then the Checklist (#28)
I report abuse and I fear payback.	Protections for Human Rights Defenders (#22)
Every U.S. door is closed and the abuse is a pattern.	UNCAT Article 20 Operations Manual (#37)
I want an AI to explain an IAJ paper to me.	How to Use AI to Read IAJ Publications (#38)

Before you use any paper against an official

These six rules help protect you and the truth.

Do not turn a question into a conclusion.

Say that conduct should be examined. Do not declare a violation before the facts and the law show one.

Not every wrong is torture.

Torture and cruel treatment have strict legal tests. An ordinary mistake, delay, or the usual stress of a court case is not enough by itself. Calling every wrong ‘torture’ can make a true claim harder to trust.

Say what kind of source you are using.

Ask what kind of source supports each point. Is it binding U.S. law, a treaty duty, an international decision, the IAJ’s analysis, or a proposed change? These sources do not have the same legal force.

A blocked lawsuit does not mean no right.

A right may exist even when a court rule blocks one remedy. The reverse is also true: the existence of a complaint process does not prove that a right was violated.

Keep the evidence that hurts you too.

A trustworthy record includes facts that do not support your view. Write down what is missing. Never fill a gap with a guess.

Deadlines and safety come first.

This guide has no deadlines in it. It cannot handle an emergency. If time or safety is at risk, get a lawyer or emergency help now.

The papers, one by one

Corpus reviewed through August 21, 2026. This edition was released August 22, 2026. It lists all 38 IAJ-created publications found on the IAJ Resources and Standards pages.

Each entry starts with a short blue title. Click it to open the publication. The full official title appears on the next line for exact identification. Then ‘What it offers’ explains the publication in plain words.

Notices to public institutions

1. The Duty of U.S. Legislatures

Full official title: On the Duty of the Legislatures of the United States to Complete the Nation’s Compliance with the Convention against Torture: A Memorandum, and a Record of Notice, Issued by the IAJ on Behalf of the People of the United States
Document number: IAJ-NOT-20260710-007-PUB · Type: IAJ notice and explanation

What it offers: IAJ says federal and state lawmakers have not finished the laws needed to carry out the U.S. promise against torture and cruel treatment. The paper lists the gaps. Use it to ask whether a missing law, investigation rule, evidence rule, or remedy affected what happened.

2. The Duty of U.S. Prosecutors

Full official title: On the Duty of the Prosecutors in the United States under the Convention against Torture: A Memorandum, and a Record of Notice, Issued by the IAJ on Behalf of the People of the United States
Document number: IAJ-NOT-20260710-004-PUB · Type: IAJ notice and explanation

What it offers: IAJ explains what prosecutors should do when they receive a credible report of torture or cruel treatment involving an official. They should keep the report and evidence safe. They should protect people, investigate or refer the report, test existing crimes, and explain the result. Use it to check how a prosecutor handled a report.

Advisory opinions

3. General Comment on IAJ Advisory Opinions

Full official title: General Comment on IAJ Advisory Opinions
Document number: IAJ-GCM-20260512-002-PUB · Type: IAJ guide about its opinions

What it offers: Explains who the IAJ is and how to use its opinions. An IAJ opinion is the IAJ’s careful analysis. It is not a court ruling, legal advice, or a promise that anyone will win.

4. Completing the Non-Self-Execution Analysis (Medellín)

Full official title: The Completion of the Non-Self-Execution Analysis: Medellín v. Texas, the Equivalence Representation, and the Test of Domestic Equivalence — An Analytical Inquiry into the Bounded Ratio of Medellín and the Analysis Its General Use Omits
Document number: IAJ-AOP-20260815-001-PUB · Type: IAJ advisory opinion

What it offers: IAJ argues that a court should not end a treaty claim only by citing Medellín or saying that the treaty is not self-executing. The court should also ask whether U.S. law gave the person a similar rule, a place to be heard, and a real remedy.

5. Limits of Lehman in Child-Custody Cases

Full official title: On the Bounded Applicability of Lehman v. Lycoming County Children’s Services Agency, 458 U.S. 502 (1982) in Light of Subsequent UNCAT Ratification and Treaty Supremacy Principles
Document number: IAJ-AOP-20260815-003-PUB · Type: IAJ advisory opinion

What it offers: Looks at the limits of using Lehman to block federal habeas review of a state child-custody decision. IAJ argues that, when this federal review is closed, the state process must still provide strong safeguards for constitutional and treaty rights.

[6. Quia Timet: Stopping Threatened Harm](#)

Full official title: *Quia Timet and the Prevention of Threatened Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment by Domestic Authorities*

Document number: IAJ-AOP-20260517-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ advisory opinion

What it offers: IAJ argues that courts can sometimes act before serious official harm happens. The threat must be real, specific, and likely. Use this paper to ask whether an authority wrongly required a person to suffer lasting harm before it would consider protection.

[Court submission](#)

[7. IAJ Amicus Brief in Texas Case No. 24-0881](#)

Full official title: *Amicus Curiae Brief to the Supreme Court of Texas — In the Interest of K.N., K.L., K.L., and K.L., Children (No. 24-0881)*

Document number: IAJ-AMI-20260217-001-LEG · *Type:* IAJ court brief; not a court ruling

What it offers: A real brief that the IAJ filed in the Texas Supreme Court about the separation of parents and children. It shows how rights, evidence, and fair procedure can be presented in a real case. The brief is not the court's ruling.

[Torture, cruel treatment, courts, and accountability](#)

[8. UNCAT and Jus Cogens: A Contemporary Perspective](#)

Full official title: *UNCAT and jus cogens: A Contemporary Perspective. The Evolved Peremptory Prohibition of Torture Beyond the Custodial Paradigm and Its Application to Judicial Conduct and the Immunities That Shield It*

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260727-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ legal standard and analysis

What it offers: Sets out the IAJ's view of the worldwide ban on torture. IAJ argues that the ban is not limited to jails, police custody, or physical violence. The paper also separates the government's responsibility from the narrower remedies that U.S. courts may allow against a judge or other official.

[9. International Law on Judicial Torture and Cruel Treatment](#)

Full official title: *International Precedents and Comparative Law on Judicial Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: An IAJ Review of Law*

Document number: IAJ-LRV-20260511-002-PUB · *Type:* IAJ review of law

What it offers: Reviews international and regional decisions about torture or cruel treatment linked to court cases. Use it to compare an official response with standards used by courts and human-rights bodies outside the United States.

[10. Judicial Torture and Cruel Treatment: Quick Reference](#)

Full official title: *Quick Reference Guide on Judicial Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment: Bench Companion to the IAJ Reviews of Law*

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260511-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ quick guide

What it offers: A short guide to the main definitions, laws, and cases about torture and cruel treatment linked to courts. Start here when you need a quick overview.

[11. Constitutional Framework for Judicial Torture and Cruel Treatment](#)

Full official title: *Enhanced Constitutional Framework for Judicial Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: An IAJ Review of Law*

Document number: IAJ-LRV-20260813-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ review of law

What it offers: Explains the IAJ's view that several parts of U.S. constitutional law, read together, support duties to prevent, investigate, and remedy severe official abuse. Use it to examine an answer that stops at immunity, deference, or a rule against court review.

12. Structural Foreclosure of Protection and Remedy

Full official title: *The Structural Foreclosure of Effective Protection and Remedy for Rights-Violating Judicial Conduct in the Courts of the United States of America: An Investigative Finding on Judicial Immunity, Good-Behaviour Accountability, and the Limits of Judicial Self-Regulation Across State and Federal Court Systems, Assessed Against International Human-Rights Standards — “The Robed Sovereign and the Shield”*

Document number: IAJ-INV-20260616-002-PUB · **Type:** IAJ investigation of a system; not a ruling on one case

What it offers: Asks whether a person harmed by a judge has any truly independent place to get protection or a remedy. IAJ finds that several paths can close at the same time, creating a problem built into the system. If several paths for help closed, this paper can help you understand how the barriers may work together. It does not decide whether a violation happened in your case.

13. The Inviolable Root: Dignity and the Ban on Torture

Full official title: *The Inviolable Root: Human Dignity as the Interpretive Foundation of the Prohibition on Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment — A Comparative Survey of the World’s Constitutions and the United States Exception*

Document number: IAJ-LRV-20260626-001-PUB · **Type:** IAJ review of law

What it offers: Compares how constitutions around the world connect human dignity with the bans on torture and cruel treatment. It helps explain why some U.S. legal results may differ from results in other constitutional systems. It does not claim that abuse is absent in other countries.

14. Constitution-by-Constitution Survey Workbook

Full official title: *Constitution-by-Constitution Survey Table (Companion Data Workbook to The Inviolable Root)*

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260626-002-PUB · **Type:** IAJ Excel workbook

What it offers: An Excel workbook that lists the constitutional evidence behind The Inviolable Root, country by country. Use it to check the comparisons and find the original sources. The blue title downloads the workbook.

15. How to Personally Enforce the Torture Convention

Full official title: *How to Personally Enforce the Torture Convention: A Practical Guide, in Impossible Steps, to Vindicating a Non-Derogable Personal Right Under United States Law*

Document number: IAJ-LRV-20260702-001-PUB · **Type:** IAJ public guide

What it offers: Shows the steps a person may try when seeking protection or a remedy under the torture treaty in the United States. It also shows the barrier that IAJ finds at each step. A blocked path does not prove that a violation happened. It also does not erase the possible right.

Prosecutors and criminal enforcement

16. Domestic Criminal Enforcement Guide

Full official title: *Guide to Domestic Criminal Enforcement of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment in the United States*

Document number: IAJ-GDE-20260814-001-PUB · **Type:** IAJ public guide

What it offers: Maps federal and state crimes that may cover conduct discussed in the torture treaty. It also shows gaps in the law and in enforcement. IAJ argues that prosecutors should test the laws already available instead of stopping only because no local crime is named ‘torture’ or ‘CIDT.’

17. Joint State–Federal Prosecution Framework

Full official title: *Collaborative Prosecution Framework: Joint State–Federal Enforcement of the Prohibition of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment in the United States*

Document number: IAJ-GDE-20260710-002-PUB · **Type:** IAJ prosecution framework

What it offers: Explains how state and federal prosecutors can work together instead of sending a case back and forth. Use it to examine whether poor teamwork left a gap in the response.

18. Prosecutorial Misconduct and UNCAT Accountability

Full official title: *Prosecutorial Misconduct and UNCAT Accountability: An IAJ Analytical Standard on Ethical Failure, Evidence Integrity, Execution-Architecture Abandonment, and State-Party Compliance*

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260710-003-PUB · **Type:** IAJ legal and ethics standard

What it offers: Explains how serious misconduct by a prosecutor may be an ethics problem. It may also be part of a larger failure to carry out the torture treaty. The paper covers hidden or damaged evidence, failed oversight, and the duties of the United States as a country.

[19. The Equivalence Representation and the Ex Post Facto Lockout](#)

Full official title: The Equivalence Representation and the Ex Post Facto Lockout: Why United States Compliance with the Convention against Torture Is Not a Political Question Awaiting Congressional Action; Why the New Offense a Congressional Cure Supplies Can Never Criminally Punish the Conduct of the Past; and How the Lockout Is Prevented

Document number: IAJ-GDE-20260710-008-PUB · Type: IAJ public guide

What it offers: Looks at two problems with telling a person to wait for Congress. IAJ argues that officials must first test the laws that already exist. It also explains that a later criminal law usually cannot punish earlier conduct because of the Constitution's ex post facto rule.

[Family integrity and disability](#)

[20. Parent–Child Separation in the United States](#)

Full official title: Parent–Child Separation in the United States: A Unified Constitutional and Human-Rights Framework — Integrating the Constitutional Architecture of Troxel II with the IAJ Multi-Treaty Synthesis

Document number: IAJ-STD-202600505-004-PUB · Type: IAJ rights framework

What it offers: Gives the IAJ's combined constitutional and human-rights framework for state action that separates parents and children. Use it to examine the evidence, any claim of emergency, access to the record, fair procedures, and the plan for restoring family life.

[21. Harmonizing the Architecture of Disability Rights](#)

Full official title: Harmonizing the Architecture of Disability Rights: The CRPD, Federal Disability Statutes, the Constitutional Foundation of Non-Derogable Disability Rights, Courts as Disability-Causing Actors, and European Hate Crime Frameworks — A Comprehensive Legal Thesis & Practical Implementation Framework

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260509-001-PUB · Type: IAJ legal thesis and practical guide

What it offers: Connects the ADA and other U.S. disability laws with constitutional and international rights. Use it to ask if a court denied needed help or made disability harm worse. Also ask if the court punished disability limits or reviewed its own conduct without a neutral process.

[Human rights and the people who defend them](#)

[22. Protections for Human Rights Defenders](#)

Full official title: Protections for Human Rights Defenders: Origins, State Obligations, and Enforcement — with a Focus on the United States

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260611-001-PUB · Type: IAJ public guide

What it offers: Explains when peaceful and honest work to record or report human-rights concerns may count as human-rights-defender work. It describes protection against obstruction, threats, and payback. It also explains that U.S. enforcement is limited and that defender-specific texts are often not binding law by themselves.

[23. The UDHR and the U.S. Constitution](#)

Full official title: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of the United States: Recognition, Constitutional Reception, and Delivery of Retained Human Rights

Document number: IAJ-RPT-20260815-002-PUB · Type: IAJ report stating the IAJ's view

What it offers: Explains the IAJ's view that many rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can help identify rights kept by the people under the U.S. Constitution. It also separates having a right from being able to get a remedy from a court or agency.

[24. UDHR Public Evidence Workbook](#)

Full official title: IAJ Public Evidence Workbook (Companion to the UDHR Report)

Document number: IAJ-RPT-20260815-001-PUB · Type: IAJ Excel workbook

What it offers: An Excel workbook listing the evidence behind the IAJ report on the Universal Declaration and the U.S. Constitution. It shows the source for each claim. Use it to check the report for yourself. The blue title downloads the workbook.

Indigenous rights and expert evidence

25. Indigenous Rights: Citizenship, ICWA, Treaties, and Jurisdiction

Full official title: Quick Reference Guide to Indigenous Rights in the United States of America: How Courts and Agencies Must Account for Tribal Citizenship, Tribal Eligibility, ICWA Status, Treaty Rights, and Tribal Jurisdiction
Document number: IAJ-STD-20260325-005-PUB · *Type:* IAJ web guide with a PDF

What it offers: A guide to tribal citizenship, tribal eligibility, ICWA, treaty rights, and tribal courts. Use it to check whether a court or agency identified the right status, applied the right law, and used the right court or government.

26. Indigenous Rights: Three-Track Analysis

Full official title: Quick Reference Guide to Indigenous Rights in the United States of America: A Three-Track Analysis
Document number: IAJ-STD-20260325-006-PUB · *Type:* IAJ web guide with a PDF

What it offers: Explains three separate tracks: federal Indian law, treaty supremacy, and international human-rights duties. Use it to check whether an official looked at only one track and missed protection supplied by another.

27. Expert Witness Testimony: Daubert and FRE 702

Full official title: USA Introduction to the Standard of Expert Witness Testimony: The Daubert/FRE 702 Framework, with Particular Attention to Testimony on Ancestry, Descent, Tribal Status, and Community Affiliation
Document number: IAJ-STD-20260325-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ teaching guide; not a court filing

What it offers: Explains how federal courts test an expert's training, method, work, and fit with the case. It focuses on ancestry, descent, tribal status, and community ties. It is a first teaching guide, not a court filing or trial exhibit.

28. Checklist for Expert Declarations in Federal Court

Full official title: USA Court-Ready Checklist: Evaluating or Drafting an Expert Declaration in Federal Court — For Attorneys and Experts Preparing or Evaluating Expert Declarations on Ancestry, Descent, Tribal Status, or Community Affiliation
Document number: IAJ-STD-20260325-002-PUB · *Type:* IAJ checklist for lawyers and experts

What it offers: A checklist for writing or checking an expert declaration about ancestry, descent, tribal status, or community ties. It helps find missing training, methods, support, fit, or required disclosures.

29. Expert Declaration Model with Drafting Notes

Full official title: USA Fillable Model Expert Declaration Outline: With Drafting Notes Explaining the Reasoning, Authority, and Evidentiary Support Expected in Each Section
Document number: not shown on the web page · *Type:* IAJ web model with drafting notes

What it offers: A model expert declaration about ancestry, descent, tribal status, or community ties. Notes explain the reason, legal support, and evidence needed in each part. The notes help with drafting and are not meant to be filed.

30. Clean Expert Declaration Model

Full official title: USA Fillable Model Expert Declaration Outline: Clean Fillable Model Intended for Direct Use by Practitioners in U.S. Federal Proceedings
Document number: not shown on the web page · *Type:* IAJ clean web model

What it offers: The clean version of the same expert-declaration model, without drafting notes. It is for a trained lawyer or expert preparing a declaration for a U.S. federal case.

Psychological investigation and documentation

31. Psychological Investigation Standard

Full official title: Psychological Investigation Standard for Torture, and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in the United States of America
Document number: IAJ-STD-20260324-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ investigation standard

What it offers: The IAJ's full standard for gathering, testing, and reporting psychological evidence of claimed torture or cruel treatment in the United States. It is more than 370 pages. It covers safe interviews, evaluator skills, ethics, careful records, and reports that do not assume the answer in advance.

[32. Plain-Language Guide to Psychological Evaluation](#)

Full official title: IAJ Psychological Investigation for Torture and CIDT Documentation: A Plain-Language Guide to the 2026 IAJ Standard

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260303-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ plain-language guide

What it offers: Explains the psychological investigation standard in everyday words. It tells readers what an evaluation includes, who may do each part, and what safeguards the IAJ standard provides.

[33. Psychological Investigation Quick Reference and Manual](#)

Full official title: IAJ Psychological Investigation Standard for Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment: Quick Reference & Intermediate Manual

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260324-002-PUB · *Type:* IAJ quick guide and working manual

What it offers: A shorter working manual with checklists and decision tools. Use it to check whether an important safeguard, piece of evidence, or evaluation step was missed.

[34. Licensing Guide for Psychological Investigations](#)

Full official title: Companion Guide to the IAJ Psychological Investigation Standard: Forensic Investigator Licensing, the Duty to Document, and the Treaty-Equivalence Question — A Definitive Guide for Forensic Psychologists, Treating Psychologists, and Other Care Providers Encountering Torture and CIDT

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260529-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ licensing guide

What it offers: Explains which parts of an evaluation different licensed workers may perform under the IAJ standard. It also explains what they should do when they cannot complete the full evaluation. Use it to check skills, records, referrals, review, and professional limits.

[IAJ investigation and international reporting](#)

[35. Level 1 IAJ Investigator: Operating Instructions](#)

Full official title: Level 1 IAJ Investigator: Role Description and Operating Instructions

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260518-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ worker instructions

What it offers: The rules for IAJ intake workers. They must record the person's account faithfully, keep the documents, avoid making findings, and pass the case to the next level. Read it to know what should happen during first contact with the IAJ.

[36. Level 1 Investigator: Quick Reference](#)

Full official title: Level 1 Investigator — Quick Reference

Document number: IAJ-GDE-20260518-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ quick guide

What it offers: A two-page reminder for IAJ intake workers. Its main rule is simple: preserve the record and do not decide the case.

[37. UNCAT Article 20 Operations Manual](#)

Full official title: UNCAT Article 20 Operations Manual — For Civil-Society Submitters (Public Edition)

Document number: IAJ-STD-20260528-001-PUB · *Type:* IAJ manual for civil-society groups

What it offers: Explains how civil-society groups may organize reliable information for the UN Committee against Torture's private Article 20 inquiry into a pattern of torture. It is not a process for deciding one person's complaint. It explains evidence, privacy, timing, and realistic expectations.

[Reader support](#)

[38. How to Use AI to Read IAJ Publications](#)

Full official title: How to Use AI to Read IAJ Publications

Document number: not shown on the web page · *Type:* IAJ web guide

What it offers: Shows how to ask an AI tool to explain an attached IAJ paper in plain words. It also shows how to check the answer for made-up claims or sources. AI can help with reading, but it is not a lawyer.

[A safe way to ask an AI about one paper](#)

Download the paper and attach it to the AI chat. Do not ask the AI to work from the title alone. Then paste this message:

Use only the attached IAJ paper. If you use outside information, label it clearly. First, tell me what the paper says it does NOT claim. Then answer four questions: (1) What right does the paper discuss? (2) What did the official have to do? (3) What facts would show what the official did or failed to do? (4) What investigation, protection, or fix should exist, and what blocks it? Give the page for every important point. Do not invent laws, cases, facts, or deadlines. Do not tell me I will win. Do not tell me that what happened to me is torture — that is a legal question this chat cannot decide.

After the AI answers, ask it to check every law and case it named against the attached paper. Before sending the answer to a court, agency, or prosecutor, check every important point against the real source.

One-page reading record

Fill this in for each paper you read. Short and exact answers are better than conclusions made too early.

Field	What to write
The paper I read	Title, number, and date.
1. My right	What right? Where does it come from?
2. The official's duty	Who had to do what? Is that binding law, or the IAJ's view?
3. What happened	Dates. Names. Actions or refusals. Documents. Harm.
4. The response	Was there a real investigation? Was I protected? Was anything fixed? What was refused?
What I still do not know	Missing facts. Evidence against me. Open questions.

What is counted, and what is not

How titles and links work. Each entry gives a short blue title first, followed by the full official title. For a web publication, the official title comes from the page heading and subtitle. Blue short titles open the publication or its IAJ web page. The web pages for items 29, 30, and 38 do not show separate document numbers, so this guide does not invent them.

This guide counts works created or written by the IAJ on the Resources and Standards pages. It includes IAJ workbooks and web guides. It does not count materials written by other people or institutions. Those excluded materials are the Multiple Sclerosis Stress Equation, Leslie Hagan's declaration, and the Texas Supreme Court's opinions and judgment in case No. 24-0881. The Request for IAJ to Publish Findings is a form, not a publication.

This guide also leaves out items marked 'Coming soon' or 'In preparation.' They include the IAJ Legal Investigation Standard, the IAJ Equivalence Investigation, and the Court Accommodation Implementation Guide. They also include Virtual Hearing Best Practices, Disability Rights in Court Proceedings, and Accommodation Assessment Training. Other listed items are Rights Protection Workshop Materials, Court Staff Sensitivity Training, and Necessary and Common Knowledge About Disabilities. The last three are Annual Accessibility Report 2025, Court System Analysis Q1 2025, and the Human Rights Compliance Study.

Publication notice

This guide teaches the public about human rights and helps readers find IAJ publications. The General Comment on IAJ Advisory Opinions (IAJ-GCM-20260512-002-PUB) applies to this guide. This guide is not a court ruling or legal advice. It does not promise that a claim will succeed or decide that anyone's rights were violated. The short explanations do not replace a publication's full rules, limits, and sources.

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