

Living Safely

with disabilities and special health needs

What to Do if You Get Arrested

What can a person be arrested for?

Sometimes police officers arrest people who break a law. Some examples of breaking the law are:

- Taking something without paying for it
- Taking, selling, or having illegal drugs
- Being drunk or having alcohol in public
- Urinating or defecating outside in a public area
- Going into a person's house or car without the person's permission
- Committing a crime or helping someone commit a crime
- Harassing or bullying someone
- Touching a person without asking
- Pushing, shoving, or hitting a person
- Threatening to hurt a person
- Having a weapon (a gun, knife, or any object that can hurt someone)
- Hurting an animal

What should I do if I am arrested?

It can be helpful to tell the police officer or anyone who asks you questions that you have a disability and what that disability is.

Tell the officer that you would like to call someone to tell them where you are.

Ask for a lawyer to be with you while you answer questions. Let the lawyer know that you have a disability.

What should I do if I am questioned?

Give your name, address, and phone number. Also give the name and contact information for a adult you trust who can help you.

Try to remain as calm as possible.

Be respectful when interacting with a police officer or other safety official.

Tell the truth.

Do not give information or sign any papers until your lawyer reads it first.

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Important tips:

A person is not your friend if they ask you to help them commit a crime.

Always carry identification with you that has your full name and current address.

Carry the name and phone number of an adult you trust.

We value the expertise of our partners in safety who have demonstrated their commitment to inclusive healthy communities. Portions of this resource have been adapted from The Arc (www.thearc.org).

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