

Living Safely

with disabilities and special health needs

What to Do if I Get Arrested



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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 such as a gun, knife, or any object that can hurt someone; or hurting an animal.



If I am arrested, it can be helpful to tell the police officer or anyone who asks me questions that I have a disability and what that disability is.

I tell the officer that I would like to call someone to tell them where I am.

I should ask for a lawyer to be with me while I answer questions. I let the lawyer know that I have a disability.



If I am questioned, I give my name, address, and phone number. I also give the name and contact information for an adult I trust who can help me.

I try to remain as calm as possible.

It is important for me to be respectful when interacting with a police officer or other safety official.

I always tell the truth.



I do not give information or sign any papers until my lawyer reads it first.



A person is not my friend if they ask me to help them commit a crime.

For more Living Safely resources, visit www.rwjbh.org/cshlivingsafely

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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This initiative was funded in part by an Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant from the Division of Disability Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services.



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