

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities are entitled to...

- Be free from discrimination. All people must be treated equally by the police, regardless of disability. Disability should not be criminalized.
- Reasonable modifications to policies and procedures that would have a disproportionate impact on them because of their disability. Any "typical" practice that would make things harder for you than a person without your disability must be adjusted when reasonable to do so.

If you think your rights have been violated...

- File a complaint with the law enforcement agency that violated your rights. This can be done by calling or visiting local police headquarters, online through the police department's website.
- If in Baltimore City, file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights.
www.civilrights.baltimorecity.gov
- Contact DRM for assistance at 410-727-6352
We'd also love to hear from you if you're interested in becoming more involved in advocacy on these issues!

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

when stopped by the police in Maryland

Created by:



Maryland PAIMI Council

For more information, visit disabilityrightsmd.org

You might find yourself dealing with police in a few different situations...

- Stopped for questioning (in a public place)
- In your car
- At your home or place of work

Knowing your rights is important!

It can help keep you safe and prepare you with a plan for what to do in difficult situations.

#knowyourrights

When interacting with law enforcement, remember...

- Stay calm. Always try to be respectful, even if you think you are being treated unfairly.
- You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer questions asked by police and cannot be punished for refusing to do so. If you wish to exercise this right, tell the officer.
- You have the right to say no to a search. If police ask to search you, your car, or your home, you have the right to say "I do not consent to this search." (Note that in an emergency, police may conduct a search without consent.)

- Ask for a lawyer. You have the right to a lawyer if you are being questioned or arrested. (You can apply with a District Court Commissioner to find out if you qualify for a public defender. Go to <https://mdcourts.gov/district/directories/commissionermap> or call 833-453-9799 to find locations.)
- Call someone you trust. Call as soon as you can to let them know where you are.
- Document. If you think something unfair happened, write down as many details as you can afterward (including officer name/badge # and contact information for any witnesses) and take pictures of any injuries. Also remember that you have the right to record the police as long as you are not obstructing them.

- Ask for medical care. If you are in crisis or it is an emergency, you are entitled to mental health and somatic health care to treat your immediate needs.



Communicating

with the officer about your disability and needs lets them make any appropriate adjustments and can make things go more smoothly.