

# INVISIBLE DISABILITIES- INTERACTING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

## EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

- Name & Address of disabled individual and care giver
- Any weapons present
- Age, Height, Weight
- Diagnosis/Disability
- Mode of Communication – verbal/non-verbal
- Any ID on person (Card in bag, ID jewelry)
- Fear of Dogs?
- Present Medications – Any recent changes?
- TOP 2 behaviors seen during meltdown/crisis situation (do not touch; running; aggression)
- TOP 2 calming techniques – favorite object/likes/topics
- Prior law enforcement contacts – will they respond to strangers?

Each Utah law enforcement agency has a Records Management System. Until a central database is complete register your loved one in each agency

- Salt Lake City Police Department -801-799-3111 OR [www.slcpd.com](http://www.slcpd.com), “contact us”. Reference Autism Safety Registry and send checklist information.
- Unified Police Department - [www.updsl.org/autism](http://www.updsl.org/autism)
- Central Dispatch 801-840-4000 (Bluffdale, Draper, Midvale, Murray, Sandy, South Jordan, South Salt Lake, Cottonwood Heights, West Jordan, West Valley)
- Utah County <http://www.dot.state.ut.us/mountainview/content/emergency-services>

**Follow up to ensure they are in the system.**

*People with Autism are 7 times more likely to have interactions with law enforcement.*



## How can I help as a parent or caregiver?

### Before Crisis Arises

- Create a profile for individual which will assist police (See Emergency Checklist)
- Keep copy of emergency checklist in car and at home. Tape on Fridge.
- Register individual in various Records Management System using information from Emergency Checklist (See agency information)
- Have emergency ID on child (medical alert jewelry)
- Ways to prepare an individual to interact with officers.
  - ✓ Teach them NEVER to touch an officer’s weapon
  - ✓ Teach them to ALWAYS keep hands visible to officer at all times.
  - ✓ If possible teach individual to self-advocate.
  - ✓ Explain that officer’s roles are to keep **everyone** safe. This means following directions.

### During a Crisis

- STAY CALM - YOU ARE AN ADVOCATE!
- Before contacting police try MCOT through UNI first at 801-587-3000. (Mobile Crisis Outreach Team - *Salt Lake County only*).
- Request a CIT officer (specially trained to deal with disabled individuals)
- Make Emergency Checklist available to responders.
- If officer wants to interview individual always have caregiver present. Use camera phone to document.

**KEEP IN MIND** – Unknown professionals are coming to help you resolve a crisis. ASSUME they will have NO INFORMATION about the situation/individual unless you inform them.

Any questions, concerns or suggestions? Please contact Montell McDowell at [montellmcdowell@yahoo.com](mailto:montellmcdowell@yahoo.com)