



### People with Disabilities in Disasters - Know Your Rights!

1. Civil Rights are never suspended during disasters. All people with disabilities have civil rights protection in disasters, without exception.
2. You have a right to all disaster alerts & information in a format that is accessible to you.
3. All emergency information must be provided in clear, plain and actionable language.
4. Sign language interpreters provided at public events must be qualified. When televised, the interpreter should always be in-frame.
5. Televised information must include captions for individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing.
6. If you require sign language interpreters, Braille, large print, or other alternative formats, **you have a right to reasonable modifications and accommodations** throughout the disaster assistance process (in notifications, evacuations, sheltering, and recovery). You have a right to be included in community evacuation transportation plans.
7. If you lived in the community before the disaster, you have the right to be provided with the disability and health maintenance supports and services you require to maintain your health, safety, and independence;
8. It is a violation of your civil rights to be directed towards a nursing home, hospital or other medical or psychiatric facility. You have a right to barrier-free shelter and temporary housing.
9. Shelters cannot discriminate when providing safety, comfort, or basic needs. Shelters must be physically accessible. You have the right to accessible sleeping, eating, medical and recreation areas, toilets, showers and transportation (when transportation is available to others).
10. You have a right to a qualified sign language interpreter, Braille, large print, plain language, and other information, and to shelter-provided personal assistance services, back-up power for medical devices, privacy for personal care and accommodations for meeting disability-related needs for reduced stimulation.
11. You have a right to meals and snacks that meet your dietary and medical needs.

[www.disasterstrategies.org](http://www.disasterstrategies.org)

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Disaster Hotline (800) 626-4959

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12. You have the right to keep your service animal with you throughout evacuation, sheltering and temporary housing.
13. Disaster services providers are required to allow individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals & must provide reasonable accommodations for meeting their needs. You have a right to advocate for your needs and file an official complaint.
14. Contact The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies:

Disability & Disaster Hotline: (800) 626-4959 or [info@disasterstrategies.org](mailto:info@disasterstrategies.org)

[www.disasterstrategies.org](http://www.disasterstrategies.org)

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