



THE PARTNERSHIP

FOR INCLUSIVE DISASTER STRATEGIES

Staying Safe: Strategies and Preparedness For Disabled People During Military, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Deployment

The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

October 2026

Table of Contents

Overview	4
Part 1: Consequences of Military Deployment and Increased ICE and CBP Deployment to Disabled People	4
Compromised Safety	5
Inaccessible Information and Notification	6
Physical Inaccessibility	7
Environmental Inaccessibility	7
Inability to Work or Difficulty Getting to Work	7
Educational Disruption	8
Inability to Maintain Health / Disruption of Medical Care	8
Disrupted Transportation	9
Increased Institutionalization and Imprisonment	9
Movement Restriction	10
Personal Assistants and Direct Support Professional Unavailability	10
Difficulty Replenishing Supplies and Food	11
Deprivation of Civil Rights	12
Potential Interference with Voting	12
Mistreatment in ICE Facilities	12
Unsafe Environment for Immigrants with Disabilities	13
Disabled ICE Detainees	13
Part 2: Always Prepared: A Guide to Maintaining Your Independence and Staying Safe during Military and ICE/CBP Deployment in U.S. Communities	16
Stay Informed	17
Develop a Safety Plan	17
Keep Supplies on Hand	18
What to Do if ICE Is in Your Area?	19
Communicate with Your Support Network about Helping You if Military Deployment Creates Barriers	19
Prepare Before Going to Areas Where There is ICE or CBP Activity	19

Ways to Prepare for Protests	20
------------------------------	----

Part 3: How We Got Here: Some Laws Governing Military Deployment to Local Communities	22
--	-----------

Posse Comitatus Act	22
---------------------	----

Exception to Posse Comitatus Act: Insurrection Act	23
--	----

Exception to Posse Comitatus Act: Martial Law	24
---	----

Challenges to Deployment	24
--------------------------	----

Overview

Since January 2025, President Trump has sent (deployed) the National Guard, and other military forces, including the Marines, to communities across the United States. The administration has also increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) presence as well. The type of military and law enforcement presence and their action has been unpredictable. It has ranged from the military conducting beautification projects in Washington D.C. to U.S. citizens' lives being taken in Minneapolis. Disabled people, regardless of their immigration status, have been injured and died. It has rightfully caused disabled people to fear for their lives and safety.

Just as disabled people should prepare for disasters without knowing when or what type will occur, we should also be prepared for situations where military deployment or increased ICE/CBP activity could impact them or their family.

This guide has three parts. Part 1 describes the potential consequences of military deployment and increased ICE and CBP presence in your community, and how it could threaten your independence and safety. Part 2 helps you develop a plan to keep safe and independent to help you prepare so that you will feel safer and be safer during times of military, ICE and CBP deployment in your community. Part 3 looks at some of the laws regarding military deployment within the United States. Each part can be used together or independently. All follow the emergency management principle of hoping for the best while preparing for the worst.

While we cannot predict exactly what will happen, we can support you in getting educated and prepared. In some communities, the military has been deployed to assist ICE and CBP. In others, there has been increased ICE and CBP activity without military involvement. Certain communities, such as Minneapolis, have experienced more violence than others. People with and without disabilities are not necessarily safe, regardless of documentation status. Renée Good, a citizen, was killed by ICE at a protest in Minneapolis on January 7, 2026. Alex Pretti was shot multiple times and killed by ICE while protesting in Minneapolis on January 24, 2026.

Specific circumstances will be different by the time this guide is published. What will likely remain constant is that there is a threat to the disability community, there are laws that protect disabled people, and that disabled people can prepare to attempt to lessen negative impacts of increased military and ICE/CBP presence for themselves and their communities.

Part 1: Consequences of Military Deployment and Increased ICE and CBP Deployment to Disabled People

All disabled people are at risk of being unsafe, losing independence from actions targeting immigrants. This section explores some of the negative outcomes for

disabled people during military deployment, and gives examples of disabled people who have been negatively impacted. Our intent is to educate the disability community about potential threats, and to support disabled people in preparing.

Here are some of the consequences and potential consequences of increased ICE, CBP, or military deployment in your community.

Compromised Safety

Disabled people, especially disabled people with multiple marginalized identities, have disproportionately negative experiences with law enforcement. A 2017 American Journal of Public Health study found that people with disabilities had a higher probability of arrest than those without, and Black people with disabilities had an even higher cumulative probability of arrest.¹

Disabled people's safety has been compromised by ICE, CBP, and by law enforcement/military. "Law enforcement across the board has a violent record when it comes to the treatment of people who are disabled. It has been estimated that half of the people killed by law enforcement officers are disabled. The risk of violence at the hands of law enforcement increases for disabled people of color."² Military presence and increased ICE/CBP presence have intensified the threat. The risk may be particularly high for:

- Deaf or hard of hearing people who can't comply with verbal instructions because they do not hear them.
- Autistic people or people with audio processing disabilities, who may not process verbal instructions quickly enough or become confused by multiple instructions from multiple sources.
- People with intellectual disabilities who may not process verbal instructions quickly enough or become confused by multiple instructions from multiple sources.
- People with mental health conditions who may become triggered by loud confrontation by multiple law enforcement agents.

Note that agents wearing masks exacerbate already dangerous conditions for disabled people who can no longer read lips, distinguish who is speaking, or interpret facial expressions.

1 Bay News Rising. "Americans with Disabilities Are at an Especially High Risk of Negative Police Encounters. Advocates Want New Solutions." *Bay News Rising*, 20 Sept. 2021, <https://baynewsrising.org/2021/09/20/americans-with-disabilities-are-at-an-especially-high-risk-of-negative-police-encounters-advocates-want-new-solutions/>.

2 Stine, Alison. "The Danger ICE Poses to the Disabled Community." *Nonprofit Quarterly*, 14 Jan. 2026, <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/the-danger-ice-poses-to-the-disabled-community/>.

Inaccessible Information and Notification

Language access is critical to disabled people who do not have proficiency in English during increased military, ICE, and CBP presence. This includes people whose disability impacts their ability to communicate in written English as well as disabled people who do not speak English.

Announcements/information being provided about ICE, CBP, or military presence, or curfews, if implemented, may not be accessible to people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or have visual disabilities, even when this is legally required. Notices may not be accessible to people who do not read text if they are not captioned, translated into sign language, or in a format that is accessible to people who do not read print because of their disability. When notices are provided by the federal government, they must be provided in an alternative accessible format under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Public entities such as state agencies, counties, cities, and towns have this obligation under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Public entities, including certain non-profits, have similar obligations under Title III of the ADA. Both Title II and Title III entities have obligations under Section 504 where federal funds are expended. Note that while sign language interpretation of written material is not legally required, it is critical for access for Deaf people whose dominant language is sign language.

Spoken language users who are proficient in languages other than English need information regarding military, ICE, and CBP presence that is accessible to them; in fact, the federal government is required to provide it. While Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, this protection only relates to activities *funded* by the federal government, not the actions of federal agencies themselves.”³

For federally funded activities, the Supreme Court has found that failing to provide meaningful access to information on federal activities, such as through translation or interpretation, can constitute discrimination under Title VI. In *Lau v. Nichols*, 414 U.S. 563 (1974), the U.S. Supreme Court interpreted the Title VI prohibition on national origin discrimination to include discrimination based on inability to speak English. To prevent this discrimination and comply with Title VI, federally funded activities must include interpretation or translation services.

However, for actions taken by federal agencies directly, language access requirements are less clear. For many years, language access requirements at the agency level were spread between statute and executive orders. While some specific activities, like

3 Anderson, April. Overview of Language-Access Requirements for Federally Funded Programs and Federal Agencies. Congressional Research Service, 1 Aug. 2025, https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/IF/PDF/IF13076/IF13076.1.pdf.

disaster response and recovery activities under FEMA have their own requirements for language access, others do not. Instead, such requirements were broadly required by certain executive orders issued by past Presidents. In the past year, these longstanding executive orders have been rescinded, creating confusion around where and how language access like translation and interpretation services are required.⁴

Not knowing about increased ICE, CBP or military presence, or other critical information could lead to arrest, injury, or death. Even if someone is not the direct target of ICE, CBP, or domestic military actions, the inability to access information or follow instructions given by these forces place people with limited English proficiency at greater risk of harm.

Physical Inaccessibility

Sidewalks and curb cuts could be blocked for short or long periods of time, impeding access for people who use mobility devices. This poses a safety risk and can inhibit their ability to go to work, school, or maintain health.

Environmental Inaccessibility

ICE and the National Guard have used what are known as “chemical irritants,” such as tear gas and pepper spray, on detainees and citizens during arrests and protests. Use of tear gas and pepper spray have a negative impact on the health of everyone.⁵ It has a disproportionately bad effect on disabled people.⁶ The use of these chemicals may make it difficult for disabled people to go to work, school, do errands such as grocery shopping and to maintain their health.

Inability to Work or Difficulty Getting to Work

Physical inaccessibility, such as blocked sidewalks and disrupted transportation could inhibit disabled people’s ability to work. Blocked sidewalks, interrupted transportation, exposure or potential exposure to chemical irritants such as tear gas and pepper spray, and disruption of personal assistance could impede disabled people’s ability to work.

It has been reported that fear of ICE, CBP, and military is causing disabled people and

4 Office of the Attorney General. “IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14,224: DESIGNATING ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.” Department of Justice, 14 July 2025, <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1407776/dl?inline>.

5 Hazzard, Andrew. “ICE Tear Gas Has Significant Health Impacts; One Infant Lost Consciousness after Exposure.” Sahan Journal, 22 Jan. 2026, <https://sahanjournal.com/health/ice-minneapolis-tear-gas-dangerous-health-effects/>.

6 Haar, Rohini J. “The Very Real Health Impacts of Tear Gas.” Physicians for Human Rights, 11 Dec. 2018, <https://phr.org/our-work/resources/the-very-reallockdowns-health-impacts-of-tear-gas/>.

their support staff to be reluctant or unwilling to go to work.⁷

Educational Disruption

Attending school could also be disrupted. Potential exposure to tear gas and pepper spray, blocked sidewalks and increased school lockdowns could disrupt education. There have been reports that parents have felt compelled to drop children off and pick them up at school rather than taking school buses because of chemical irritants and other potential threats. Parents with or without disabilities may fear sending children to school.

According to the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), “ICE has been separating family members and instilling fear by targeting schools, which should be spaces safe enough for parents, children, relatives, and teachers to focus on educating young people. Schools in areas with high ICE activity are offering remote learning after noticing a drop in attendance. However, students with disabilities may still have setbacks and barriers, since they often are not well supported by virtual learning.”⁸

Inability to Maintain Health / Disruption of Medical Care

Physical inaccessibility, such as blocked sidewalks and disrupted transportation, can compromise disabled people’s ability to maintain their health. This could include inability to get to doctor’s offices, infusion centers, dialysis centers, chemotherapy, and other physical and mental health treatments. We have been told that some disabled people are skipping medical appointments and are not getting medication because they are afraid to leave their homes. According to the American Association of Persons with Disabilities blog post, “hospitals have already seen ICE agents walk through their doors.”⁹ This fear was further substantiated when Aliya Rahman was forcibly removed from her car by ICE when attempting to go to a medical appointment. See below.

In addition to hampering disabled people’s ability to physically get to places necessary to maintain their health, blocked roads or curfews can also inhibit the ability of people who assist in maintaining health to get to the homes of disabled people. This could include personal assistants, home health aides, direct support professionals, and others.

7 Litchman, Rachel. “Recent Changes to Immigration Policies Have Disastrous Impacts on Disabled People and Long-Term Care.” AAPD, 9 Jan. 2026, <https://www.aapd.com/recent-immigration-policies-impacts-disabled-people-and-long-term-care/>.

8 Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF). Immigrant Rights Are Disability Rights: ICE & Law Enforcement Violence Must End. 18 Feb. 2026, <https://dredf.org/immigrant-rights-and-ice-out/>.

9 Litchman 2026.

Disrupted Transportation

Transportation could be disrupted should military be deployed to U.S. communities. This disruption could manifest as reduced or suspended public transportation, including paratransit, commandeering of vehicles, staff shortages and detentions, fuel, supply or maintenance interruptions. Note that commandeering of accessible vehicles has been engaged in by FEMA in previous disasters.¹⁰

Increased Institutionalization and Imprisonment

Increased military and ICE/CBP presence could lead to increased institutionalization and incarceration of disabled people. The Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets, Executive Order 14321¹¹ executed in August of 2025, which essentially criminalized homelessness made it clear that there is no tolerance for unhoused people by the Trump administration. Deployed military can be of support in "sweeping" unhoused people from the streets. Many disabled people will be "swept" to nursing institutions, psychiatric institutions, and carceral facilities including prisons and jails.

- Nursing institutions: There are several dynamics where increased military, ICE and CBP presence can lead to increased institutionalization of disabled people. One is that disabled people, especially older adults, will be placed in nursing institutions when this is not their choice. Another dynamic is that a shortage of personal assistants will worsen so that disabled people now living independently with support will be forced to go to nursing institutions.
- There is a shortage of personal assistants for disabled people who choose to live in the community.¹² This shortage could be made worse as personal assistants are arrested, deported, or just fear going to work. Immigrants make up 33% of the homecare workforce, while they constitute a smaller percentage (25%) of workers in nursing facilities and (23%) of workers in residential care settings.¹³ This suggests that it will be easier for nursing and residential care facilities to maintain staff than for disabled individuals living in the community.

10 The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies. Surviving Hurricanes – The Disabled Experience: It's Always a Harrowing Journey. <https://disasterstrategies.org/surviving-ida/>.

11 United States, Executive Office of the President [Donald J. Trump]. Executive Order #14321: Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets. July 24, 2025. Federal Register, vol. 90, no. 134, July 29, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/ending-crime-and-disorder-on-americas-streets>.

12 Lyons, Barbara, and Molly O'Malley Watts. *Addressing Shortage of Direct Care Workers: Insights from Seven States*. 19 Mar. 2024, <https://doi.org/10.26099/czzn-m038>.

13 Chidambaram, Priya, et al. "Who Are Direct Care Workers and How Might Federal Policy Changes Impact the Workforce?" KFF, 9 July 2026, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/who-are-direct-care-workers-and-how-might-federal-policy-changes-impact-the-workforce/>.

- Psychiatric institutions: An increased military presence combined with a focus on “restoring civil commitment”¹⁴ from the Executive Order 14321 will lead to increased psychiatric institutionalization or imprisonment (see below) of people perceived to have psychiatric disabilities.
- Jails and Prisons: As a result of criminalization of homelessness spelled out in the Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets Executive Order,¹⁵ more houseless people are being incarcerated. Houseless people are disproportionately disabled.¹⁶ If military forces are assisting in “cleaning up the streets,” as per the executive order above, a greater number of disabled people will be incarcerated, sometimes for being unhoused, which may now be regarded as a crime. Black and Brown people, including Black and Brown disabled people are even more likely to be incarcerated.¹⁷
 - Black and Brown citizens, detained but not taken into ICE custody, may become at higher risk of being incarcerated.

Movement Restriction

Movement restriction can be the result of blocked sidewalks, interrupted transportation, chemical irritants in the environment or intimidation. This can limit disabled people’s access to their communities, to personal assistance and other services, as well as access to groceries and other essential goods. During times of crisis and when people are confined to their homes, domestic violence disproportionately increases for disabled people.

Personal Assistants and Direct Support Professional Unavailability

In addition to disabled people being threatened directly, their support staff is being threatened.

Increased military, ICE and CPB deployment is worsening shortage of personal assistants. “Thirty-two percent of the home care workforce is staffed by immigrants.”¹⁸ “[N]oncitizen immigrants make up a larger share of immigrants working in home care settings compared to nursing facilities and residential care settings.”¹⁹

14 Trump, Executive Order #14321.

15 Ibid.

16 Preisser, Jack. “Disability and Homelessness in America.” Carleton College. Accessibility Digest, 10 Mar. 2025, <https://www.carleton.edu/accessibility-resources/newsletter>.

17 Trump, Executive Order #14321.

18 Chidambaram, et al.

19 Ibid.

Both documented and undocumented Brown and Black people, as well as non-English speakers, could be detained or deported. It is also possible that they may be too intimidated to go to work, regardless of their immigration status.

“[F]or disabled immigrants who rely on personal care attendants, even if their citizenship status may not make them eligible for Medicaid or [home and community based services] HCBS, they face the double threat of having their attendants disappeared and detained by the government, and care needs denied if subject to ICE detention.”²⁰

When disabled people lack personal assistants, the risk of institutionalization increases.

It also is critical that disabled people collaborate with each other to support personal assistants and other support staff. They should work to find ways to provide paid time off to staff who have been targeted by ICE/CBP.

Difficulty Replenishing Supplies and Food

Functional efficient transportation is essential to the supply chain.²¹ Should transportation be disrupted by ICE raids and other activity, it may be difficult to continue to obtain goods. This could include:

- Oxygen. Transporting oxygen could become problematic.²²
- Consumable medical supplies including tube feeding, infusion supplies, catheters. Consider discussing this with oxygen and consumable medical supplies providers.
- Food and other resources. Food supply has already been disrupted by ICE raids.²³ This could be worsened by ICE activity that threatens transportation interruption²⁴ or by ICE raids at farms or other places that produce or distribute

20 Ibid.

21 Supply Chain Assessment of the Transportation Industrial Base: Freight and Logistics. U.S. Department of Transportation, Feb. 2022, https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-02/EO%2014017%20-%20DOT%20Sectoral%20Supply%20Chain%20Assessment%20-%20Freight%20and%20Logistics_FINAL.pdf.

22 Oxygen Supply Chain. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Dec. 2022, <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/Oxygen%20Supply%20Chain%20Profile.pdf>.

23 Collins, Louise. “How Trump’s Immigration Crackdown Disrupts Food Supplies.” Supply Chain Digital, 2 July 2025, <https://supplychaindigital.com/news/how-trumps-immigration-crackdown-disrupts-food-supplies>.

24 Starr, Stephen. “Immigrant Truck Drivers Are Vital to the Economy. ICE Crackdown Is Forcing Them off Roads.” The Guardian, 10 Mar. 2026. US Immigration. The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/mar/10/ice-crackdown-immigrant-truck-drivers>.

food. The Trump 2025 Executive Order, Enforcing Common Sense Rules of the Road for America's Truckers,²⁵ which among other things requires that truckers have proficiency in English, could disrupt it further.

When there is a deprivation of resources such as food, it disproportionately affects disabled people. Disabled people are disproportionately food insecure when there is not a crisis.²⁶ Many of the barriers to acquiring food during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as inability to obtain groceries or inadequate supplies of groceries lack of accessible transportation and affordable delivery service²⁷ could reoccur during periods of military and increased ICE and CBP presence in their communities.

Deprivation of Civil Rights

While fundamental disability rights and civil rights laws have not changed, enforcement of non discrimination laws against people with disabilities may be severely reduced and accessibility may be deprioritized. e.g., sign language interpreters may not be provided, curb cuts could be blocked, etc. If you think rights are not being met because of your disability, contact your local Protection & Advocacy agency. You can find your state or territory Protection & Advocacy agency at the [National Disability Rights Network member directory](#).

Potential Interference with Voting

It is unknown if ICE or CPB will take actions that, intentionally or unintentionally, interfere with voting rights of disabled people. Work with elections officials and community members in advance of elections to ensure that disabled and non-disabled people's votes will not be jeopardized.

Mistreatment in ICE Facilities

According to Mike Ervin in The Progressive Magazine, "It has long been known that having a disability greatly increases a person's risk of being subjected to the use of force and even dying at the hands of police. So it's no surprise to see that people with

25 United States, Executive Office of the President [Donald J. Trump]. Executive Order #14286: Enforcing Commonsense Rules of the Road for America's Truck Drivers. April 28, 2025. Federal Register, vol. 90, no. 84, May 2, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/enforcing-commonsense-rules-of-the-road-for-americas-truck-drivers/>.

26 Coleman-Jensen, Alisha. "Thirty Years After Enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Disabilities Remain a Risk Factor for Food Insecurity." Economic Research Service U.S. Department of Agriculture. Amber Waves, June 2020, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2020/december/thirty-years-after-enactment-of-the-americans-with-disabilities-act-disabilities-remain-a-risk-factor-for-food-insecurity>.

27 Ibid.

disabilities are being mistreated while in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).²⁸

In August of 2025, over 30 Congressional representatives sent a letter to Kristi Noem,²⁹ who was then the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which has jurisdiction over ICE.³⁰

The letter stated in part that:

“It is unacceptable that detainees with disabilities are routinely denied access to medications, assistive devices, and means of communication until emergencies arise,” the lawmakers wrote. “This pattern of neglect demands immediate federal oversight, accountability, and enforcement of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and DHS’s own regulations.”³¹

Unsafe Environment for Immigrants with Disabilities

As of a KFF Survey published in May of 2025, immigrants, even immigrants who are documented, feel less safe than they did in 2023.³² Currently, immigrants are less safe in the U.S. This includes citizens as well as green cardholders. Immigrants with disabilities are less safe than immigrants without disabilities. According to Nonprofit Quarterly, “people with disabilities face an increased threat of violence at the hands of the federal immigration enforcement agency.”³³

“Migration has always been a disability justice issue. Attacks on immigrant communities disproportionately harm Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQI+ and disabled people.”³⁴

Disabled ICE Detainees

According to *Truthout*, “Disabled people face an increased threat of violence and

28 Ervin, Mike. “ICE’s Mistreatment of People with Disabilities.” *Progressive.Org*, 11 Feb. 2026, <https://progressive.org/api/content/66133f20-0787-11f1-9406-1248ae80e59d/>.

29 Brownley, Julia and Members of Congress. “Letter to Kristi Noem.” 1 Aug. 2025, <https://juliabrownley.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Letter-to-Sec.-Noem-on-ICEs-Mistreatment-of-Individuals-with-Disabilities.pdf>.

30 Ervin.

31 Brownley, et al.

32 Schumacher, Shannon, et al. *KFF Survey of Immigrants: Views and Experiences in the Early Days of President Trump’s Second Term*. KFF, 8 May 2025, <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/kff-survey-of-immigrants-views-and-experiences-in-the-early-days-of-president-trumps-second-term/>.

33 Stine.

34 Uzeta, Michelle. “DREDF Denounces Misuse of Power and Supports Our Immigrant Communities.” Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF), 10 June 2025, <https://dredf.org/dredf-denounces-misuse-of-power-and-supports-our-immigrant-communities/>.

detention from law enforcement, including the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents who have been deployed to terrorize communities and detain neighbors in Los Angeles, Chicago, Minneapolis, and elsewhere as part of Trump's crackdown over the last year."³⁵

Below are examples of people with disabilities who were taken into ICE custody. Some people were citizens and others were not. We are not including these examples to alarm you. We have included them so that you can be aware of current realities, and to support you in your planning to stay safe.

Example: Aliya Rahman, Disabled Person Subject to ICE/CBP Violence

Aliya Rahman is autistic, has a brain injury and other disabilities. This American citizen, who is a person of color, was on her way to a doctor's appointment at a medical office that she had visited numerous times previously. The medical office was near an anti-ICE protest in Minneapolis that she had no plans of attending. She was confused by numerous agents surrounding her car and shouting contradictory orders. Because agents were masked she could not read lips or facial expressions that help her understand where sound is coming from. Agents smashed her car windows, and cut her seat belts and was then forcibly removed from her car. As they carried her through a crowd she repeatedly shouted that she had a disability. [Here is her testimony at a February 2026 Congressional hearing.](#)

Disabled people should not panic but we must be aware that ICE, CBP, and military violence may occur. As Aliya Rahman experienced and many others who were impacted by chemical irritants like tear gas by going to work or school in the vicinity of protests have experienced, not going to a protest is not sufficient to protect disabled and non-disabled people from harm.

Example: Wael Tarabishi, Disabled Citizen who dies after ICE Removes Primary Caregiver

Wael Tarabishi, a 30 year old U.S citizen with Advanced Pompe Disease, a significant disability that impacted his mobility, breathing and speech died on January 23, 2026, weeks after his father and primary caregiver, Maher Tarabishi was taken into custody by ICE. He was refused the request to attend his son's funeral.³⁶

According to ABC news, "Maher, a Jordanian native, overstayed a tourist visa here in the U.S. in 1994... The U.S. government allowed Maher to remain in the country legally

35 Dhenin, Marianne. "Disabled Organizers Are Facing Down Trump's Immigration Crackdown." *Truthout*, 25 Mar. 2026, <https://truthout.org/articles/disabled-organizers-are-facing-down-trumps-immigration-crackdown/>.

36 "Disabled US Citizen's Family Says ICE Stopped His Father from Attending His Funeral." *ABC News*, directed by Marwa Mouaki, ABC, 3 Feb. 2026, <https://abcnews.com/US/disabled-us-citizens-family-ice-stopped-father-attending/story?id=129702431>.

to care for Wael through a Supervision Order in 2008.”³⁷ This tragic example highlights the need of disabled people to be aware that personal assistants whether they be family or paid staff could be detained or deported by ICE, and plan for it. Again, this can be true regardless of their documentation status, particularly if they are Black or Brown. Having back up personal assistance providers, although often hard to secure, could be the key to survival.

Example: Kenek Bautista Torres, Disabled Child Held in ICE Detention Longer Than Legal Time Period

Despite a 20 day limit on the amount of time a minor can be detained, “Vilma Bautista Torres, who fled Honduras and sought asylum in the U.S. in 2021, said she and her 9-year-old son, Kenek, spent more than 80 days at [the] Dilley [Immigration Processing Center] before their release on parole last week. Kenek, who has severe autism, grew increasingly disoriented and distressed as the weeks dragged on without access to therapy, she said, hitting himself, crying through the night and begging her to let him return to his school in Louisiana.”³⁸

Example: Nurul Amin Shah Alam, Blind Rohingya Refugee who Died After Being Abandoned by ICE

The body of Nurul Amin Shah Alam was found dead outside in freezing temperatures after he was dropped off by CBP at a closed doughnut shop five miles from his home.³⁹ He was a 56 year old refugee from Burma who did not speak English who was nearly totally blind. His family was not told that he was being dropped off.⁴⁰

His death was ruled a homicide in March of 2026. According to a statement by the Erie County Medical Examiner’s Office “the cause of death was complications of a perforated duodenal ulcer precipitated by hypothermia and dehydration, and the manner of death was homicide.”⁴¹

37 Ibid.

38 “‘This Place Broke Something in Us’: Kids Languish in ICE Detention Long Past 20-Day Court Limit.” *NBC News*, 13 Mar. 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/children-languish-ice-detention-long-20-day-court-limit-rcna262525>.

39 Moench, Mallory. “Nurul Amin Shah Alam: Refugee’s Death after Release by US Immigration Authorities Ruled Homicide.” *BBC*, 2 Apr. 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gx8l7w4jjo>.

40 Shoemaker, J. Dale. “Blind Refugee Abandoned by Border Patrol Dies in Buffalo.” *Investigative Post*, 25 Feb. 2026, <https://investigativepost.org/2026/02/25/blind-refugee-abandoned-by-border-patrol-is-dead/>.

41 *Erie County Provides Statement Regarding the Medical Examiner’s Office Investigation on the Death of Nurul Amin Shah Alam*. Erie County Department of Health, <https://www3.erie.gov/health/press/erie-county-provides-statement-regarding-medical-examiners-office-investigation-death-nurul>. Accessed 22 Sept. 2026.

“The cause of death refers to the disease or injury that initiates the lethal sequence of events. The manner of death describes the circumstances of a death, or how the cause came about. For death certification purposes, “homicide” refers to death resulting from the volitional act of another, which may include negligent acts or omissions. The designation of homicide does not imply intent to cause harm or death. Manner of death determinations are neutral, non-legal, and exist for vital statistical purposes, only. They do not indicate criminality, which is the purview of the judicial system.”⁴²

Example: Disabled 15-Year-Old Minor

In August of 2025, a disabled 15-year-old “was handcuffed by ICE agents in what they now claim was a ‘mistake’ while the child waited for his sister in a car with his mother outside a school. His family is suing the Trump administration for assault.”⁴³

Example: Disabled 21-Year-Old, Left Unable To Communicate

In March 2025, Hector, a 21-year-old with developmental disabilities, was left unable to communicate in an immigrant detention facility in Tacoma, WA.⁴⁴

Example: Javier Diaz Santana, a 32-Year-Old Deaf Person, Who Was Illegally Arrested and Detained by ICE

In the summer of 2025, Javier Diaz Santana was illegally arrested, at the car wash where he worked. His phone was seized and he was put into handcuffs so he couldn’t sign or otherwise communicate. He was presented with written material in Spanish, which he doesn’t speak. He was transported from California to Texas, where his family could not locate him. Mr. Diaz Santana was legally allowed to be in the U.S. and had permission to work under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). Although he was eventually returned home, he is required to wear an ankle monitor.⁴⁵

Part 2: Always Prepared: A Guide to Maintaining Your Independence and Staying Safe during Military and ICE/CBP Deployment in U.S. Communities

Disability rights advocates must actively challenge and resist harmful policies, including increased military deployment in our communities. At the same time, we know these actions may move forward despite our opposition. But as is the case in

42 Ibid.

43 Stine.

44 Ibid.

45 Mejia, Brittny. “Deaf, Mute and Terrified: ICE Arrests DACA Recipient and Ships Him to Texas.” Los Angeles Times, 22 July 2025, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-07-22/ice-arrests-daca-recipient-at-california-car-wash>.

climate disasters, we can plan to mitigate their effects. Planning for increased military deployment should begin immediately. We invite allies to support disabled people in their preparation and in their survival.

Planning will look different than disaster planning in that it won't be supported by the federal government and may not be supported by the state. This Guide can be used by disabled leaders and members of the disability community to lessen/mitigate some of the effects of military deployment and increased ICE/CBP presence in U.S. cities and other areas.

Military, ICE, and CBP are being sent to U.S. communities. It has been said these deployments are to protect government property, stop crime, and maintain order. National Guard troops have also been deployed to support ICE in arresting people thought to be undocumented.

As was mentioned in the overview, The Partnership encourages disabled people to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. We don't want anyone to get unnecessarily frightened, just like we don't want people to be unnecessarily afraid of hurricanes and wildfires. We do want people to be informed and prepared. Here are some things you can do to keep yourself and your family safe and independent if the military, ICE, or CBP is sent to your area.

Stay Informed

- It is important for all disabled people, especially disabled leadership to stay up-to-date about actions ICE, CBP and the military are taking, and these actions impact disabled people. This changes quickly. Find reliable local news sources and stay informed. Some neighborhoods share information about ICE presence and how it might impact disabled people regardless of citizenship status.
- Disabled leaders need to correct information that is not true as soon as they are aware of it, whether it is in the media, on social media or a rumor.
- Disabled people should also become aware of community resources that can provide support and incorporate this information into their safety plan.

Develop a Safety Plan

A personal or family safety plan can be a lot like an emergency plan that you make to prepare for disasters. Consider including:

- A paper and electronic list of contact info from people in your support network, including all personal assistants or direct support providers, and sign language interpreter services.

Note: Be mindful about how you share and store personal information. Avoid including full names, home addresses, or other identifying details for people in

your network, especially those who may be at greater risk. Protecting privacy is an important part of keeping everyone safe.

- A paper and electronic list of resources including legal organizations such as Legal Aid or local ACLU, Protection and Advocacy agencies, [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#).
- Memorize the phone number of at least one trusted person in your support network, in case you do not have access to your phone or contact list.

Keep Supplies on Hand

Your emergency kit with supplies of food and water during disasters and emergencies will be useful if you encounter a situation where you can't get to a store because of blocked roads or curb cuts, or if your personal assistant or direct support professional (DSP) cannot get to your house because of blocked roads, chemical irritants, fear of being detained, etc.

Consider including these items in your kit:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for at least one week, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a week's worth of non-perishable food)
- First aid kit
- Masks
- Local maps
- Whistle
- Important documents (These should be on paper and saved electronically to the cloud):
 - List of emergency contacts
 - House/apartment lease, mortgage or deed

If you have documents that show your citizenship or verify that you have legal immigration status, you may want to keep them in a place where you can quickly reach them. This way you can easily bring them to the door with you if ICE comes to your home. Be aware that showing these documents may not prevent you from being arrested or detained.

- Health insurance and primary doctor information
- Copies of ID, birth certificate, and Social Security card or green card (if applicable)
- Copies of all of these documents for a trusted person who does NOT live in your household

What to Do if ICE Is in Your Area?

If ICE is active in your area, focus on staying informed, protecting yourself, and communicating with your support network.

If you do not need to travel, consider staying where you are until you have more information.

If you do need to leave home, think ahead about the safest route, what to do if you encounter access barriers or transportation issues. Take a backpack with you with what you may need if you need to stay out of your house for a day or two. And, check in with at least one trusted person so they know where you are going and when you plan to be back. Don't forget to let them know you're back home if you went out.

If there is a possibility of tear gas, pepper spray, or other chemical irritants in your area, take steps to reduce exposure. If it is safe to do so, document disability-related barriers or rights violations and share them with trusted advocates or legal organizations.

Disabled people should not have to navigate these situations alone. Staying connected with your community and asking for help early is always a good idea because it gives you and them time to prepare.

Communicate with Your Support Network about Helping You if Military Deployment Creates Barriers

Make a plan about who can help, when they might be able to help, and how they might be able to help if:

- Personal assistants or DSPs cannot get to your home
- You run out of food/water, medication, or other supplies
- You are having a hard time getting medical assistance
- Your regular transportation is not available
- You have other needs

Prepare Before Going to Areas Where There is ICE or CBP Activity

You have the right to go anywhere in your community. You may choose to avoid areas where there is military, ICE and CBP activity, especially if you are very sensitive to chemical irritants such as pepper spray or tear gas. You also have the right to participate in protests. If you go to protests where there is military or ICE/CBP presence, prepare ahead of time.

Ways to Prepare for Protests

Communicate with Your Support Network About Supporting You Should You Be Detained

You should make a plan with your support network should you be arrested or detained. This is vitally important if you are someone who may be targeted by ICE.

Everyone in your support network should have phone numbers of attorneys who you have confirmed are able to help you. With your support network, if you can, set up a bail fund that they can access, should you be arrested by police.

Plan with Personal Assistants and Direct Support Professionals

Make a plan together for how support will continue if travel becomes unsafe, public transportation is disrupted, or it is unsafe for staff to travel.

Consider planning for:

- Multiple backup support for when scheduled worker cannot get to you
- What you need assistance with most if support is limited
- How you will communicate if phones and internet stop working
- Ways to protect the safety and privacy of staff who may also be at risk

Plan with the Whole Community

Many neighborhoods have groups where neighbors plan to notify and support each other during increased ICE, CBP, and military deployment. If you are able, participate in these meetings. Make your needs known and if it feels safe, share your contact information. Also be sure to share any information about resources and planning that others may not know about.

Communicate with Sign Language Interpreters and Interpreting Agencies

If you use sign language interpreters, make sure that they have your most recent phone number.

If you use sign language interpreters and feel unsafe going to public meetings, let

agencies or interpreters know this and see if they can support video relay interpreting (VRI).

Plan with Transportation Companies

Set up meetings with transportation providers, including paratransit, to strategize ways to safely provide transportation if roads or curb cuts are impeded or blocked, or if there are likely to be chemical irritants in air space surrounding drop off and pick up areas.

Connect with Each Other, the Larger Disability Community, and the Press

Develop a list of members of the press that you can communicate with in an emergency.

Develop litigation strategies:

- The larger disability community should develop an advocacy plan that includes litigation strategy as well as ways to connect disabled people being denied rights with attorneys.

Submit Complaints or Discrimination Reports when Rights Are Denied

If you or a family member experience disability discrimination, lack of accommodations, inaccessible communication, use of force, or other rights violations, document what happened when it is safe.

If you think you or family member has been discriminated against because of your disability, contact your [Protection & Advocacy agency](#).

You may also consider connecting with your [state ACLU affiliate](#), local immigration rights groups, legal aid, or a trusted community legal organizations.

For Undocumented Disabled People and People Who Might Be Suspected of Being Undocumented

Consider having a card that explains that:

- You have a disability.
- What your disability is and how it affects you.
- What accommodations you need.
- That the ADA and other disability rights laws apply to all people in the U.S. regardless of immigration status or documentation.

Important Note: Such a card can help communicate important information if you are unable to do so yourself. However, carrying a card does not guarantee that accommodations will be provided or that your rights will be respected. It should be viewed as one tool among many to support your safety and self-advocacy.

Identify a trusted person in your support network who knows your needs, can be contacted if you are in need, and memorize their phone number.

Part 3: How We Got Here: Some Laws Governing Military Deployment to Local Communities

Note: This section contains legal material that not everyone might be interested in reading. That is okay. There is a place for everyone in the disability rights movement and not everyone has to take on all roles. If this is not your thing, feel free to skip this section. Consider spending the time that you would have used reading it, supporting your community in other ways.

Since January 2025, the President has deployed the National Guard, other military including the Marines, and increased ICE and CBP presence in many communities. Deploying, in this case, means sending military and/or ICE to states/territories without consent of the governor. They are to act on behalf of the federal government, not to help states manage a situation like a disaster or civil unrest. The purpose of the military being deployed is ostensibly to arrest and detain greater numbers of undocumented people.

There are a number of laws about circumstances under which the federal government can send the military into U.S. communities. The Trump administration has been sued for allegedly violating some of these laws. Litigation is still playing out. So far some cases have said that troops can be sent and others have said that they can't. See "Challenges to Deployment" below. Here is a quick summary of some laws that may apply.

Posse Comitatus Act

The Posse Comitatus Act says that the military cannot be used to enforce the law in the U.S. It is the rule unless an exception to that law is invoked.

"It is a federal law that restricts the use of the U.S. military for domestic law enforcement purposes. Enacted in 1878, this law prohibits federal military personnel from acting as law enforcement officers unless explicitly authorized by the Constitution or an Act of Congress. The aim of the act is to maintain a clear separation between military and civilian authorities, ensuring that military forces do not interfere with civilian

law enforcement operations.”⁴⁶

“This means that generally speaking, active- duty U.S. military personnel cannot be used for domestic law enforcement.”⁴⁷

Exception to Posse Comitatus Act: Insurrection Act

The Insurrection Act is an exception to Posse Commutatus. It “allows the president to use the military as a domestic police force in certain emergencies such as an ‘insurrection,’ ‘rebellion,’ or ‘invasion.’”

Historically, the Insurrection Act is used rarely and in extreme emergencies when civilian police cannot or will not enforce the law. The Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel has described invoking the Insurrection Act against the objection of the state’s governor as available only when ‘state and local law enforcement have completely broken down.’ Most legal experts believe the Insurrection Act’s authorities are limited to these circumstances.

The last time it was invoked was in 1992 when the governor of California and mayor of Los Angeles requested support from the National Guard to restore order after people rioted in response to police officers beating Rodney King.”⁴⁸ Prior to that it was invoked by President Eisenhower and President Johnson to enforce court ordered racial desegregation in the South.⁴⁹

The Trump administration has sent military forces including National Guard and Marines to 10 cities as of 2025.⁵⁰ Their role was theoretically to restore order, assist local law enforcement and ICE.

President Trump expressed he was considering invoking the Insurrection Act beginning

46 *Posse Comitatus Act: Understanding Its Legal Definition*. US Legal Forms, <https://legal-resources.uslegalforms.com/p/posse-comitatus-act>. Accessed 22 Sept. 2026.

47 “FAQ: Use of Military & Wartime Powers.” National Immigration Law Center, 22 Jan. 2025, <https://www.nilc.org/resources/faq-on-use-of-the-military-for-immigration-enforcement/>.

48 Wala, Raha. “Five Things You Should Know About the Insurrection Act.” *National Immigration Law Center*, 21 Jan. 2026, <https://www.nilc.org/articles/five-things-you-should-know-about-the-insurrection-act/>.

49 Nunn, Joseph, and Elizabeth Goitein. “The Insurrection Act, Explained.” Brennan Center for Justice, 25 Apr. 2022, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/insurrection-act-explained>.

50 Carrega, Christina. “A City-by-City Breakdown of Trump’s Immigration Raids and Troop Deployments.” *Capital B News*, 26 Jan. 2026, <https://capitalbnews.org/trump-national-guard-city-updates/>.

in 2020 following demonstrations protesting the murder of George Floyd.⁵¹

He brought it up again on January 20, 2025, the first day of his second term when he asked for “recommendations regarding additional actions that may be necessary to obtain complete operational control of the southern border, including whether to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807.”⁵² Although he has mentioned invoking it on numerous occasions since then, including during protests in Portland, Oregon in 2025 and Minneapolis in January, 2026.⁵³ He has not yet invoked it as of time of publication.

Exception to Posse Comitatus Act: Martial Law

Martial Law is another exemption to Posse Comitatus. It is the principle that the military cannot control civilian matters.

Martial Law is a term given to “describe[s] a power that, in an emergency, allows the military to push aside civilian authorities and exercise jurisdiction over the population of a particular area. Laws are enforced by soldiers rather than local police. Policy decisions are made by military officers rather than elected officials. People accused of crimes are brought before military tribunals rather than ordinary civilian courts. In short, the military is in charge.”⁵⁴

The Brennan Center has identified 68 instances of martial law being invoked in the U.S.⁵⁵ “While martial law has been declared at both the federal and state levels by both state governors and President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, any actions taken under that authority must still comply with the Constitution.”⁵⁶

The President has not yet declared Martial Law.

51 Tucker, Eric, and Lolita C. Baldor. “Presidents Have Leeway to Use Military for Domestic Purposes.” *PBS News*, 2 June 2020, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/presidents-have-leeway-to-use-military-for-domestic-purposes>.

52 Faguy, Ana. *What Is the Insurrection Act and Can Trump Use It?* BBC, 15 Jan. 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9qwez9zz7jo>.

53 Ibid.

54 Nunn, Joseph. *Martial Law in the United States: Its Meaning, Its History, and Why the President Can’t Declare It*. Brennan Center for Justice, 11 Aug. 2026, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/martial-law-united-states-its-meaning-its-history-and-why-president-cant>.

55 Nunn, Joseph. Guide to Declarations of Martial Law in the United States. Brennan Center for Justice, 20 Aug. 2020, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/guide-declarations-martial-law-united-states>.

56 “What You Need to Know About the National Guard, the Insurrection Act, and Martial Law.” *League of Women Voters*, 10 Sept. 2025, <https://www.lwv.org/blog/what-you-need-know-about-national-guard-insurrection-act-and-martial-law>.

Challenges to Deployment

There have been challenges to Trump's use of the military and ICE in U.S. communities. A coalition of states that included Washington, Delaware, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawai'i, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania sued the Trump administration over deployment to states.

In December of 2025, the Supreme Court "left in place a ruling by a federal judge in Chicago that bars the Trump administration from deploying National Guard troops in Illinois."⁵⁷

"President Trump pulled hundreds of National Guard troops from California, Oregon and Illinois after the Supreme Court ruled against the administration in the Illinois case."⁵⁸

This does not mean that states being occupied by federal agents is over. ICE/CBP deployment has increased, infamously in Minnesota where Renee Good and Alex Pretti were shot and killed by ICE agents in January of 2026. Note that the shooting deaths of Silverio Villegas González, Isaias Sanchez Barboza, and Keith Porter occurred in the Trump administration's term beginning in 2025 and also involved federal agents.⁵⁹

Minnesota sued to block deployment of ICE agents on grounds that it violated states' rights under the 10th amendment. This request was denied.⁶⁰

57 Howe, Amy. "Supreme Court Rejects Trump's Effort to Deploy National Guard in Illinois." SCOTUSblog, 23 Dec. 2025, <https://www.scotusblog.com/2025/12/supreme-court-rejects-trumps-effort-to-deploy-national-guard-in-illinois/>.

58 Lonsdorf, Kat. "Behind the Front Lines of the Legal Battle against Trump's National Guard Deployments." WUNC News, 15 Jan. 2026, <https://www.wunc.org/2026-01-15/behind-the-front-lines-of-the-legal-battle-against-trumps-national-guard-deployments>.

59 Barajas, Joshua. "Shooting Deaths Climb in Trump's Mass Deportation Effort." PBS News, 29 Jan. 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/a-look-at-shootings-by-federal-immigration-officers>.

60 Smith, Mitch. "Federal Judge Denies Request to Temporarily Block ICE Surge in Minnesota." The New York Times, 31 Jan. 2026. U.S. NYTimes.com, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/31/us/judge-minnesota-ice-ruling.html>.