

# Know Your Rights Attending A Protest

The First Amendment protects your right to assemble and express your views through protest. Police and other government officials, however, are allowed to place certain narrow restrictions on the exercise of free speech rights.

## YOUR RIGHTS AS A PROTESTER WITH A DISABILITY

- The First Amendment protects your right to protest in public places, though police can impose limited restrictions.
- You can protest in streets, sidewalks, parks, and other public areas without blocking access.
- Private property owners may restrict speech on their property.



- Counter protesters have equal rights; police must remain neutral.
- You can photograph or film in plain view in public spaces.
- No permit is needed unless marchers block traffic; police can ask you to step aside for safety.
- You have the right to reasonable accommodations.

### REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS YOU CAN REQUEST FROM AN OFFICER

- ASL interpretation or auxiliary aids
- Clear verbal or written instructions
- Accessible protest routes/exits (curb cutouts, safe crossings)
- Extra dispersal time
- No flashing lights or strobe lights
- Avoidance of gases aggravating lung conditions
- Assistance exiting protest safely

### ESSENTIAL SAFETY TIPS FOR DISABLED PROTESTERS:

- Keep trusted contacts written on your arm
- Carry valid ID and essential medications (with prescriptions)
- Bring earplugs, sunglasses, portable stool if needed
- Understand risks of noxious gases; carry inhaler, goggles, gas mask.
- Ensure assistive devices have backup batteries/chargers



### IF YOU ARE ARRESTED:

- Immediately inform officers: "I have a disability requiring ADA accommodations."
- Clearly request accommodations and medications.
- Assert your right to remain silent and request an attorney.
- Use your phone call wisely to contact trusted support.

# Know Your Rights Attending A Protest

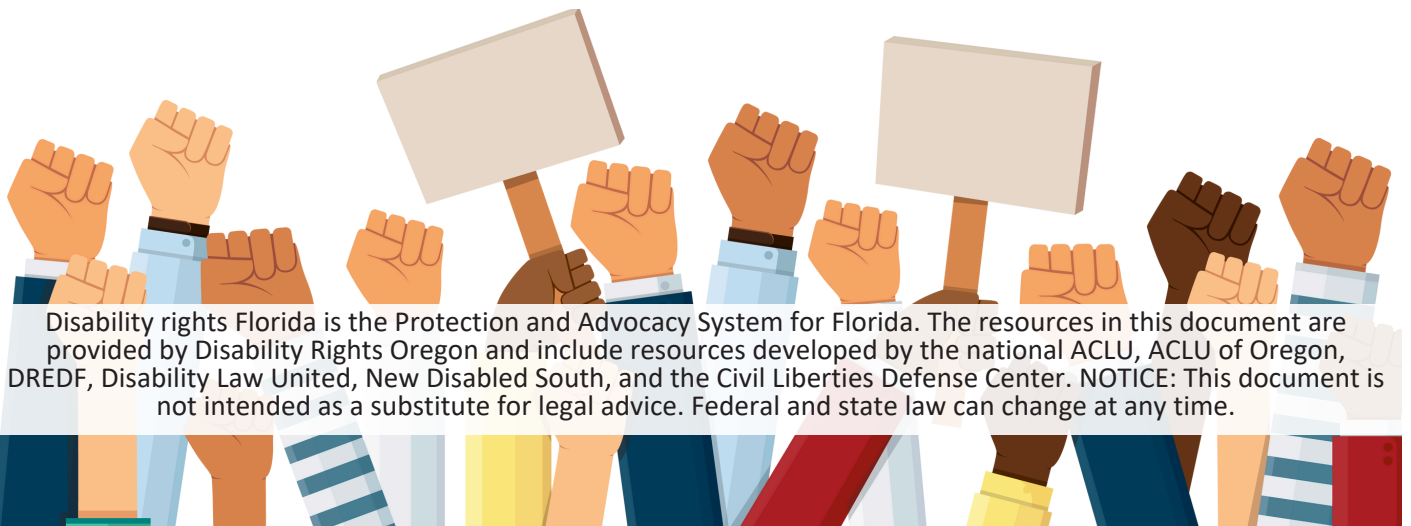
## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<b>CAN I MAKE A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION REQUEST TO A POLICE OFFICER DIRECTLY?</b>	Yes. Clearly state: "I have a disability requiring ADA accommodations," and specify your need.
<b>WHAT IF I HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS DURING A PROTEST?</b>	Immediately request support from protest organizers, medical providers, or law enforcement.
<b>WHAT IF POLICE ISSUE A DISPERSAL ORDER?</b>	Immediately request support from protest organizers, medical providers, or law enforcement.
<b>WHAT ARE MY RISKS IF I DON'T FOLLOW DISPERSAL ORDERS?</b>	Potential risks: Arrest, criminal charges, fines, jail time, or immigration consequences.

**BEFORE DECIDING TO ENGAGE IN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, BE SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL OUTCOMES AND EVALUATE HOW MUCH RISK YOU ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO TAKE.**

## IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED:

- Document everything (badge numbers, agencies, witnesses).
- Photograph injuries and record interactions if safe.
- File a complaint with the agency's internal affairs or civilian board.



Disability rights Florida is the Protection and Advocacy System for Florida. The resources in this document are provided by Disability Rights Oregon and include resources developed by the national ACLU, ACLU of Oregon, DREDF, Disability Law United, New Disabled South, and the Civil Liberties Defense Center. NOTICE: This document is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. Federal and state law can change at any time.