



# **C. A. R. E FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**Cultural Awareness to  
Relational Engagement**

**A Guide for  
Parents/Caregivers**

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# PATH/FVCT SERVICES

PATH/FVCT is a **free** statewide grassroots parent organization. We are dedicated to offering emotional and informational support to families, promoting partnerships with families of diverse backgrounds, and collaborating with healthcare providers and community organizations to improve services and policies that serve our children.

What we do...

- Listener Program - One to one matching service
- CT Family to Family Health Information Center
- CT KASA (Kids AS Self Advocates)- Youth Leadership & Advocacy (ages 13-26)
- Sibling Leadership Network -Leadership Support & Advocacy
- Charting the LifeCourse
- Genetic Resources & Advocacy
- Special Education Advocacy
- Monthly Newsletter
- Speaker Programs
- Trainings

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## Engagement with Police Dept./Emergency Medical Services

**THIS GUIDE WAS DESIGNED AS A RESOURCE TO ASSIST FAMILIES WHO MAY HAVE A CHILD/YOUTH AT RISK FOR ADVERSE INTERACTIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISABILITY, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEED OR JUST THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN.**

**PLEASE NOTE: EVERY FAMILY IS DIFFERENT, EVERY SITUATION IS DIFFERENT AND EVERYONE IS INDIVIDUAL. THIS GUIDE IS A TEMPLATE THAT FAMILIES STEPS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND/OR EMS AND CAN CHANGED BASED UPON WHAT BEST SUITES THEIR NEEDS.**

## Engagement with Police Dept./Emergency Medical Services

### WHO?

- Any family that has a family member with a medical complexity/disability that may need emergency care often.
- Any family that has a family member with significant mental/behavioral health diagnosis .(e.g., ASD, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia)
- Any person of color with the above needs.

# ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL PD/EMS: Why?

Engagement is important because:

- Priority response during disasters
- Builds trust and builds relationships for all involved
- Your information will educate EMS/PD how to respond to your family member (switch off lights/sirens, limit number of responders etc.)
- Your Information may help to de-escalate a difficult situation and avoid adverse reactions and mitigate a disastrous scenario that saves lives

## ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL PD/EMS: 5 - TIPS TO PREPARE

1. Get to know and develop relationships with Mayor, local town/state representatives who can help to facilitate meetings
2. Identify an ally who will go with you to the meeting
3. Update your File of Life and any other pertinent information, including contact info
4. Talk to other parents who have had success in their local communities, learn from them, site any positive data or stories that might move PD/EMS
5. Educate, practice, role play with your loved one and other family members/caregivers

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# STEPS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL PD/EMS

1. Find contact information for your local; Police Department (PD) & Emergency Medical Services (EMS), local health department
2. Ask for a meeting with Police Chief, dispatch manager, fire and/or EMS chief
3. If meeting granted, bring your family member, bring information about their medical condition, disability, mental/behavioral health need. If comfortable bring list of current meds.
4. If possible, bring information from school system that backs you up. (IEP etc.)
5. Speak honestly, share information and strategies that work with treatment, de-escalation
6. Give contact information for 2 family members
7. If you have a File of Life, fill it out and give copies to EMS, PD
8. Educate the individual and all involved family members/caregivers

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PATH Parent to Parent / Family Voices of CT



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PATH Parent to Parent Family Voices of CT

# THANK YOU

For more information or to  
request further training]

Contact us at:

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