

Interacting with Community Responders:

Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Technicians, Firefighters, etc.

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HD families are essential in the education of community professionals (such a police officers, judges, lawyers, and emergency responders, etc) about HD and the impact HD has on a person's physical, cognitive and behavioral abilities and/or limitations. Providing information about HD during interactions with community professionals is an important way to raise awareness and avoid injustices for HD persons.



Ways to Educate and Advocate with Community Responders

Contact local police, fire stations, neighbors and businesses to provide brief information about your loved one with HD.

If you have experienced negative interactions with community responders you may ask your HD care team to write a letter on your behalf to relay important information about HD and his/her current symptoms, limitations and medications.

Share any information that is helpful to communicate and assist as well as avoid misunderstandings or improper detainment of a person. For example:

- HD persons need extra time to process questions and respond;
- make eye contact to ensure they can focus;
- when giving tasks/commands state one at a time for better comprehension by HD person, and provide information about any balance and chorea issues, etc.

AFTER initial emergency situations have resolved, be proactive and problem solve with community responders on how to prevent future incidents. For example:

- have medical id bracelet/information,
- list of emergency contact persons on file or in persons wallet that can provide information if an incident occurs



Resources to Share

Law Enforcement Tool Kits

HDSA and Help4HD offer information that has already been gathered and can be printed and given to community responders.

HD written resources

Visit HDSA, Help4HD or UC Davis HD Center of Excellence can be downloaded for free and provided to community responders.

"I Have Huntington's Disease" **wallet card or identification/medical alert bracelet** recommended for all HD persons as it can be useful in providing quick information about HD, as well as who to contact in emergency situations.

[HDSA.org](https://www.hdsa.org)

[Help4HD.org](https://www.help4hd.org)

[UC Davis HDSA Center of Excellence](https://www.ucdavis.edu/huntingtons/)