



## Why Do You Want to Teach This Class?

*"This information is so important. I mean, just consider that it could mean life or death of me or one of my friends."*

Tracy Wright

*"We are taught that Policemen are there to help us. But it can be hard if the first time we meet a police officer, it's when we're surrounded, sirens are sounding, and we're being yelled at."*

Aaron Kaufman

*"The Arc Maryland is here to help with community inclusion and to protect the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is about successful day to day interactions"*

Kate Fialkowski



For more information, contact

**The Arc Maryland**

130 Lubrano, Suite 212

Annapolis, MD 21401

[info@thearcmd.org](mailto:info@thearcmd.org)

410-571-9320

**Law Enforcement Training  
By Individuals with  
Developmental Disabilities**



## Law Enforcement Training By Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

The Arc Maryland has developed curriculum for Law Enforcement Professionals to enhance understanding, communications, and situational responses involving individuals with developmental disabilities.

### Why Is This Training So Important?

- Individuals with developmental disabilities are 7 times more likely than their neighbors to come in contact with law enforcement professionals.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities are 4-10 times more likely to be victimized than their neighbors
- Individuals with developmental disabilities are often inappropriately accused and convicted of crimes they did not commit.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities may have hidden co-occurring conditions that, through the use of restraints, can result in medical emergencies or fatalities

### Included in This Training

Incorporated into our curriculum are topics related to communications such as disability etiquette and interaction skills, comments on victims and suspects person first language, and overcoming communication barriers. The training is delivered by professionals who happen to be individuals with developmental disabilities. Law Enforcement personnel have the opportunity to discuss first hand with those most impacted by this training: individuals with developmental disabilities.

### Quick Tips for Communications: Use Dignity and Respect

- Never use the "R-word" In 2010, Rosa's Law was passed removing the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" from federal health, education and labor policy and replaces them with people first language "individual with an intellectual disability" and "intellectual disability."
- Use "People-First Language" – placing the emphasis on the person, not the disability (for example, "an individual with developmental disabilities" NOT a "handicap person")
- Speak directly to the individual even if a caregiver is also present.

### The Arc Maryland Trainers



Aaron Kaufman,  
Adult Systems Advocate



Tracy Wright,  
Director Self Advocacy Network