

Kindred Stories of Disability: Safety and Criminal Justice for Tennesseans with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)



The goal: To learn what is working and what is not working for Tennesseans with IDD within Tennessee's safety and justice systems to educate policymakers.

Sharing Your Story

We want to talk with adults with IDD, families, social workers, and public defenders. We want to talk with first responders and law enforcement.

Interviews will focus on experiences with:

- **Missing persons / wandering incidents:** experiences with first responders when a loved one has eloped or gone missing.
- **Behavioral crises in homes, schools, or community settings:** Interactions with law enforcement or School Resource Officers during moments of emotional or behavioral escalation.
- **Traffic stops and car accidents:** Fears, misunderstandings, and outcomes when a driver or passenger with a disability is involved.
- **Emergencies and 911 communication barriers:** Experiences seeking help, misinterpretation of disability-related behaviors, or lack of system readiness to respond appropriately.
- **Criminal justice involvement:** Stories involving children and adults with IDD being arrested, charged with a crime and/or taken to juvenile justice facilities or jails.

Interview Commitment:

- A one-hour conversation with a Vanderbilt student (over Zoom) **Interviewees may choose to remain anonymous**
- Questions will be shared with you before the interview
- Photo shoot (optional and/or anonymous)

Interested?

- Complete the project intake form here: redcap.link/qjr2z43k or
- Email: courtney.taylor@vumc.org with "Kindred Stories" as the subject line



A developmental disability is a condition that starts at birth or when a person is very young and usually lasts their whole life. It can make it harder for a person to do everyday things like talking, learning, moving around, bathing, or eating.