Fact Sheet:
Disability Rights & Reasonable Accommodations in Immigration Procedures

For Immigrants with Disabilities in Washington State

People with disabilities—**including undocumented immigrants**—have rights during immigration procedures. These rights help ensure you can participate fully in interviews, hearings, applications, and other steps in the immigration process.

This fact sheet summarizes your rights and provides **Washington-specific resources** for legal help, disability support, and advocacy.

Your Rights Under Federal Law:

You are protected from disability discrimination.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act protects *everyone* in the U.S., regardless of immigration status. This includes interactions with:

- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** – ICE, USCIS, CBP.
- **Department of Justice (DOJ)** – Immigration courts, EOIR, BIA.

You have the right to request reasonable accommodations.

A reasonable accommodation is a change in rules, policies, or practices that helps you participate equally in immigration procedures. A reasonable accommodation request may be denied if the immigration system believes that granting it would "fundamentally alter" the procedures or believes it to be too expensive or difficult.

Examples include:

- Sign language interpreters (ASL, Mexican Sign Language, Deaf Interpreters).
- Captioning (live or automatic).
- Documents in Braille, large print, or screen-reader accessible formats.

- Plain-language versions of documents.
- Extra time, breaks, or modified interview questions.
- Using an AAC device (tablet, app, communication board).
- Allowing a trusted support person to attend interviews or hearings.
- Scheduling changes or remote/in-person alternatives.
- Having an officer come to your home if travel is not possible.
- Request a qualified representative for those with mental health disabilities.
- Administrative closure for period of necessary treatment for acute illness.
- Release from detention if ill due to detention conditions and only way to recover is to be released.

You can request accommodations you need because of your disability.

How to Request an Accommodation:

You can request accommodations by:

- **USCIS online form:** https://egov.uscis.gov/e-request/accom.
- Contacting the immigration court or judge by phone, mail, or email.
- Asking during an appointment or hearing.
- Filing a motion (your lawyer can help).

Your request should:

- Describe your disability.
- Explain the accommodation you need.
- Explain how it helps you participate.

You may later need documentation such as medical records, letters from providers, school IEPs, or statements from family or community members.

If Your Request Is Denied:

You can:

- Ask the judge or agency to reconsider.
- Provide more information.

- File a complaint with DHS: Make a Civil Rights Complaint | Homeland Security.
- Call USCIS: 800-375-5283.
- Email ICE: ICECivilLiberties@ice.dhs.gov.
- Appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) if the denial harmed your case.

Washington State Resources:

Below are **trusted Washington-based organizations** that support immigrants, people with disabilities, or both.

Legal Help (Immigration & Disability):

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP):

Provides immigration legal assistance statewide.

- Seattle, Tacoma, Wenatchee, Granger offices.
- https://www.nwirp.org.
- Phone: 206-587-4009.

Washington Defender Association Immigration Project:

Helps immigrants involved in criminal or immigration proceedings.

» Immigration Project - Washington Defender Association.

ACLU of Washington:

Civil rights advocacy, including disability and immigrant rights.

- https://www.aclu-wa.org.

Disability Rights Washington (DRW):

Statewide protection & advocacy organization for people with disabilities. Supports people in detention and those needing accommodations.

- https://www.disabilityrightswa.org.
- Phone: 800-562-2702.

Disability Support & Advocacy:

Washington State Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH):

Provides ASL interpreters, communication access services, and advocacy.

- https://dshs.wa.gov/administrations-and-offices/office-deaf-and-hard-hearing.

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC):

Advocacy and resources for people with developmental disabilities.

- https://www.ddc.wa.gov.

Aging & Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA):

Supports adults with disabilities needing services or accommodations.

- https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa.

Local Independent Living Centers (ILCs):

Offer disability advocacy, peer support, and communication access. Examples:

- **Center for Independence (Tacoma)** – https://centerforindependence.org.
- **Central Washington Disability Resources** – https://mycwdr.org.
- **Alliance of People with disAbilities (Seattle)** – https://disabilitypride.org.

Community Organizations Supporting Immigrants:

Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN):

Statewide hotline and support network.

- Hotline: 1-844-724-3737.
- https://www.waimmigrantsolidaritynetwork.org.

OneAmerica:

Advocacy for immigrant and refugee communities.

- https://weareoneamerica.org.

Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA):

Provides culturally competent services, including disability support.

- https://www.rewa.org.

Emergency & Crisis Support:

Washington 211:

Statewide resource line for disability services, legal help, housing, and more.

- Dial **211.**
- https://wa211.org.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:

For mental health crises, available in multiple languages.

- Dial **988.**

You have the right to reasonable accommodations in immigration procedures—regardless of your immigration status. Washington State has strong disability and immigrant-rights organizations ready to help you navigate the process, request accommodations, and protect your rights.

Other Resources:

A detailed legal review of legal protections for people who are immigrants with disabilities, including case law citations: How Does Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Apply to Immigration? An Overview.

Gratitude:

Heartfelt thanks to California's Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund for pioneering much of the guidance listed here.