

## A New Illinois Law Requires Police Training for Individuals with Autism

Dec 13, 2024

### enforcement training



**A new law taking effect in January 2025 will better prepare police officers when responding to individuals with autism.**

Illinois law enforcement is expanding its training to better serve the autistic community, with a new law taking effect this January. The legislation, introduced by State Senator Natalie Toro, builds on existing police training practices by making them mandatory.

Lori Davie, program manager for The Autism Program (TAP) at Easterseals, recently shared details about the training on CBS affiliate WIFR. "The curriculum usually entails identifying characteristics, strategies and tools [and] de-escalation techniques," she explained. Officers will learn to recognize verbal and non-verbal cues, understand sensory sensitivities, and develop skills to support individuals with different needs.

This initiative comes at an important time, as statistics show people with disabilities interact with police seven times more frequently than the general population. The enhanced training aims to create more positive outcomes for everyone involved.

"We want to help an autistic individual and the autism community feel more comfortable if law enforcement needs to be involved," Davie said. The program focuses on building understanding between officers and autistic individuals to ensure safer, more successful interactions for all.

Watch the WIFR clip [here](#).

[Learn more](#) about The Autism Program at Easterseals.

Learn more about [police interactions for people with autism](#).