

# MEDICAL DE-ESCALATION COMMUNICATION TOOL

*Infographic-Style Field Guide for Medical Encounters*

## **HOW TO SPEAK**

- Speak slowly and clearly
- Use simple, direct language
- Give only one command at a time
- Repeat calmly if needed

## **HOW TO POSITION YOURSELF**

- Maintain safe physical distance
- Avoid sudden movements
- Stay at eye level when possible
- Limit the number of responders giving commands

## **WHAT TO AVOID**

- Shouting commands
- Rapid-fire questioning
- Crowding the subject
- Assuming delayed response equals defiance
- Using force prior to medical screening

## **MEDICAL AWARENESS TRIGGERS**

- Sudden behavior change
- Slurred or delayed speech
- Disorientation to place or time
- Unsteady gait or tremors
- Medical alert device visible

## **KEY FIELD QUESTION**

Do you have a medical condition we should know about?

**QUICK ACTION REMINDER:** If medical impairment is suspected at any point, slow the scene, reduce verbal load, request EMS immediately, and delay enforcement until medical clearance is obtained.

**DISCLAIMER:** This infographic tool is intended for training and field awareness only. It does not replace EMS protocols, departmental policy, or medical diagnosis. Always defer to licensed medical professionals when medical impairment is suspected.

***Medical First. Not Criminal First.***

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