Legal Protections Summary: ADA, Disability, Homelessness, and Compassionate Exemptions

# Federal Laws and Protections

* Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Requires reasonable accommodations, including protections against discriminatory enforcement of anti-camping or loitering laws.
* Fair Housing Act (FHA): Protects disabled individuals from housing discrimination, including homeless or at-risk persons.
* Rehabilitation Act (Section 504): Bans discrimination on basis of disability in federally funded programs.
* COVID-19 Related Hardship Protections: Includes temporary reliefs for parking permits, vehicle registration, and penalties due to pandemic-related hardship (varies by region).

# California State Laws and Codes

* California Disabled Persons Act (CDPA): Expands on ADA protections statewide.
* Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA): Anti-discrimination protections in housing and employment.
* Welfare and Institutions Code (Division 5): Includes statutes on mental health systems and homelessness.
* Mental Health Services Act (MHSA): Funds community-based mental health and housing support services.
* California Penal & Vehicle Codes: Contain enforcement and compassionate override mechanisms.
* COVID-19 Executive Orders: Include vehicle registration/parking relief and hardship protections.

# Local City & County Codes (e.g., Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park)

* Municipal codes for camping, nuisance, vehicle dwelling, public health, ADA exceptions.
* Code Compliance units enforce local ordinances with ADA and CDPA restrictions.
* Procedures exist for hardship-based exemptions and ADA-related accommodation requests.

# Key Resources and Legal Tools

* Disability Rights California - Housing/Homelessness legal toolkits.
* California Housing and Disability Advocacy Program resources.
* City-level code enforcement protocols and ADA grievance procedures.