

IF YOU'RE STOPPED IN YOUR CAR

1. Upon request, show them your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. In certain cases, your car can be searched without a warrant as long as the officer has probable cause. To protect yourself later, you should make it clear that you do not consent to a search. It is not lawful for police to arrest you simply for refusing to consent to a search.
2. If you're given a ticket, you should sign it; otherwise you can be arrested. You can always fight the case in court later.
3. If you're suspected of drunk driving (DWI) and refuse to take a blood, urine or breath test, your driver's license may be suspended.

IF YOU'RE ARRESTED OR TAKEN TO A POLICE STATION

1. You have the right to remain silent and talk to a lawyer before you talk to the police. Tell the police nothing except your name and address. Don't give any explanations, excuses or stories. You can make your lawyer decide if you are asked to identify yourself, see paragraph 2 above.
2. Ask to see a lawyer immediately. If you can't pay for a lawyer, you have a right to a free one, and should ask the police how the lawyer can be contacted.
3. Within a reasonable time after your arrest, or booking, you have the right to make a local phone call; to a lawyer, bail bondsman, a relative or any other person. The police may not listen to the call to the lawyer.

Don't say anything without a lawyer.

1. It's not a crime to refuse to answer questions, but refusing to answer might make the police suspicious about you. If you are asked to identify yourself, see paragraph 2 above.
2. Police may "pat-down" your clothing if they suspect a concealed weapon. Don't physically resist, but make it clear that you don't consent to any further search.
3. Ask if you are under arrest. If you are, you have a right to know why.
4. Don't bad-mouth the police officer or run away, even if you believe what is happening is unreasonable. That could lead to your arrest.

What To Do If You're Stopped By The Police

Think Carefully about your words, movement, body language, and emotions.

Don't get into an argument with the police.

Remember, **anything you say or do** can be used against you.

Keep your hands where the police can see them.

Don't run. Don't touch any police officer.

Don't resist even if you believe you are innocent.

Don't complain on the scene or tell the police they're wrong or that you're going to file a complaint.

Do not make any statements regarding the incident.

Ask for a lawyer immediately upon your arrest.

Remember officers' **badge & patrol car** numbers.

Write down everything you remember ASAP.

Try to find **witnesses** & their names & phone numbers.

If you are injured, **take photographs of the**

injuries as soon as possible, but make sure you

seek **medical attention** first.

If you feel your rights have been violated, **file a**

written complaint with police department's internal

affairs division or civilian complaint board, or call

the ACLU hotline, **1-877-634-5454**.

KEEP THIS CARD HANDY!

IF YOU HAVE A POLICE ENCOUNTER,

YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF.



www.aclu.org

4. Sometimes you can be released without bail, or have bail lowered. Have your lawyer ask the judge on the next court day after arrest.

5. Do not make any decisions in your case until you have talked to a lawyer.

IN YOUR HOME

1. If the police knock and ask to enter your home, you don't have to admit them unless they have a warrant signed by a judge.

2. However, in some emergency situations (like when a person is screaming for help inside, or when the police are chasing someone) officers are allowed to enter and search your home without a warrant.

3. If you are arrested, the police can search you and the area close by. If you are in a building, "close by" usually means just the room you are in.

We all recognize the need for effective law enforcement, but we should also understand our own rights and responsibilities – especially in our relationships with the police. Everyone, including minors, has the right to courteous and respectful police treatment. If your rights are violated, don't try to deal with the situation at the scene. You can talk to a lawyer afterwards, or file a complaint with the Internal Affairs or Civilian Complaint Board.

Produced by the American Civil Liberties Union.

ARREST THE RACISM. Tell us about your race- or

ethnic-based traffic or pedestrian stop.

Call 1-877-634-5454 or go to aclu.org/profiling

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