

# M.I.L.I.T.I.A. Master Handbook

Public-Safe, Disciplined Civic Engagement Documents  
Master Compilation — v1.0

This handbook compiles the organization's public-facing standards and member resources into one downloadable PDF. It is designed for lawful civic engagement, ethical public documentation, and non-confrontational conduct.

Nothing in this handbook authorizes violence, harassment, intimidation, surveillance, or unlawful activity. Members are personally responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and venue policies.

Compiled: January 20, 2026

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# **Section A — Public Activist Manual (v1.2)**

## **A1. Purpose & Civic Context**

Civic systems rely on informed participation. When participation erodes, power concentrates. This manual exists to restore balance by encouraging informed, peaceful, and lawful engagement — replacing chaos, rage, and apathy with discipline, awareness, and structure.

## **A2. Core Values**

- Lawfulness over impulse
- Discipline over disorder
- Awareness over ignorance
- Responsibility over blame
- Community stability over spectacle

## **A3. What We Mean by “Militia” (Civic Definition)**

The term is used in a civic sense: citizens remaining informed, prepared, and capable of contributing to community stability. It does not imply violence, paramilitary activity, or armed action.

## **A4. What We Do**

- Publish educational resources
- Coordinate peaceful civic gatherings
- Encourage lawful documentation and record-keeping
- Promote mutual aid and preparedness education

## **A5. What We Do Not Do**

- Initiate violence or threats
- Harass or intimidate individuals
- Encourage illegal acts
- Operate as an armed group or private enforcement

## **A6. Participation Levels**

Observers learn and stay informed. Supporters share resources and attend public events. Participants assist with organization and outreach. Members commit to conduct standards and ongoing education.

## **A7. Public Conduct**

Public engagement is calm, respectful, and intentional. Presence, clarity, and consistency matter more than volume. Disengage from provocation and do not obstruct others.

## **A8. Information Integrity**

Verify before sharing. Avoid rumor, speculation, and inflammatory framing. Correct mistakes publicly and promptly.

## **A9. Safety & De-escalation**

Avoid escalation. Step back when tensions rise. Personal safety and public trust take priority over confrontation.

## **A10. Independence & Non-Affiliation**

Independent and non-partisan. Not affiliated with any political party, law enforcement agency, or private interest group.

# **Section B — Public Recording & Documentation Handbook (v1.3 FULL)**

## **B1. Scope & Authority**

Governs all public recording and documentation under the organization's name, including video, audio, photos, livestreams, and written notes.

## **B2. Documentation Philosophy**

Recording exists to preserve truth, context, and public record — not to provoke, harass, or create spectacle. Credibility is built through restraint.

## **B3. Guiding Principles**

Lawfulness first. Accuracy over advocacy. De-escalation over confrontation. Respect for privacy, dignity, and safety.

## **B4. Legal Awareness (High-Level)**

Laws vary by jurisdiction. Understand audio consent rules, reasonable expectation of privacy, restricted locations, and lawful orders. When uncertain: comply and disengage.

## **B5. Public vs Private Spaces**

Public spaces generally allow recording where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists. Private property and restricted facilities require permission or avoidance.

## **B6. Audio Recording Standards**

Audio rules are often stricter than video. Default to disabling audio unless consent requirements are clearly satisfied.

## **B7. Minors & Vulnerable Individuals**

Avoid recording minors and vulnerable individuals. If unavoidable for compelling public-interest reasons, minimize identifying details and redact before publication.

## **B8. Pre-Recording Checklist**

Confirm location status. Assess safety. Review consent rules. Ensure equipment readiness. Commit to non-interference.

## **B9. Conduct While Recording**

Maintain neutral posture and language. Do not obstruct movement or duties. Do not follow, corner, mock, or provoke.

## **B10. Interacting With the Public**

If questioned: brief, polite, non-argumentative. Disengage if recording creates distress or escalation.

## **B11. Interacting With Officials**

Remain calm and respectful. Do not interfere with lawful duties. Follow lawful orders. Safety and compliance take priority over footage.

## **B12. De-escalation Protocols**

Increase distance as tension rises. Lower voice. Stop if emotions escalate. No documentation objective outweighs safety.

## **B13. Continuity & Context**

Record continuously when possible to preserve context. Avoid selective clips that misrepresent events.

## **B14. File Handling & Chain of Custody**

Secure originals promptly. Preserve metadata and timestamps. Avoid unnecessary copying or alteration of originals.

## **B15. Privacy & Redaction**

Before publishing: obscure faces, license plates, addresses, and personal data of private individuals unless a compelling public-interest justification exists.

## **B16. Publishing Standards**

Publish only when it serves transparency or accountability. Provide dates, locations, and neutral descriptions. Avoid sensational titles and commentary.

## **B17. Prohibited Uses**

No harassment, targeting, doxxing, intimidation, incitement, or monetization of harm.

## **B18. Case Examples (Good vs Bad)**

ACCEPTABLE: calm recording from a distance, full context preserved, neutral captions.

UNACCEPTABLE: selective clips, inflammatory captions, following individuals, provocation.

## **B19. Decision Tree: Should I Record?**

Public space? If no, stop. Danger present? prioritize safety. Am I escalating? disengage. Can I record silently and safely? proceed.

## **B20. When to Stop**

Stop if a lawful order is given, privacy concerns arise, tensions escalate, or safety is compromised.

## **B21. Media Interaction Standards**

Keep statements factual and brief. Refer to published manuals. Do not speculate or argue.

## **B22. Training & Familiarization**

Review this handbook regularly. Carry the quick-reference card when participating in public activities.

### **B23. Accountability & Review**

Documentation may be reviewed for compliance. Violations may result in corrective action or removal from participation.

### **B24. Amendments & Version Control**

Updates are logged to preserve clarity and accountability.

## **Section C — Quick Reference & Cards**

### **C1. Recorder Pocket Card (Print / Screenshot)**

**Public space only • No interference • No provocation • Obey lawful orders • Safety first**

If questioned: “I’m documenting for an accurate public record. I’ll comply with any lawful instruction.”

### **C2. “If Stopped by Officials” Response Card**

Goal: de-escalate, comply, and protect safety.

- Keep hands visible; speak calmly.
- Ask: “Am I free to go?” (if appropriate).
- If an instruction is lawful, comply.
- Do not argue on-scene; do not obstruct.
- If told to stop recording, comply and step back.

Default statement: “Understood. I’m not interfering. I will comply.”

### **C3. Jurisdiction Awareness Checklist**

- Know your state’s audio consent rule (one-party vs all-party).
- Check for venue policies and posted restrictions.
- Avoid recording minors and vulnerable individuals.
- When uncertain: disable audio or stop.

## Section D — Templates & Forms

### D1. Internal Incident Report Template (Internal Use)

Date & time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (city/venue): \_\_\_\_\_

Event name / context: \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting member (name/role): \_\_\_\_\_

Other members present: \_\_\_\_\_

Officials involved (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Public involved (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Summary (facts only):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sequence of events (timeline):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any injuries / safety concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Was recording made? (Y/N) File name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Was anything published? (Y/N) Link(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Immediate corrective actions taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow-up needed (training, policy, outreach): \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by (name/title): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### D2. Member Recording Standards Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that public recording must be lawful, ethical, and non-confrontational. I understand I am personally responsible for compliance with all applicable laws and venue policies. I agree not to harass, intimidate, doxx, or misuse recordings, and to prioritize safety and accuracy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### D3. Annual Reaffirmation Form

Once per year, members reaffirm continued alignment with these standards.

I have reviewed the current version of the M.I.L.I.T.I.A. Master Handbook and reaffirm my commitment to:

- Lawful, peaceful civic engagement
- Non-harassment and non-intimidation
- Information integrity and ethical documentation
- De-escalation and safety-first conduct

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix 1 — State-by-State Audio Consent Resources

Recording laws are nuanced and can change. This appendix provides authoritative state pages to consult. For each state, review both “Telephone and electronic communications” and “In-person conversations.”

Primary reference: Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press — Reporter’s Recording Guide (state pages).

## High-risk / commonly misunderstood jurisdictions (verify):

- All-party consent is common in states such as California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Washington, among others.
- Some states have mixed rules or civil/criminal differences (examples include Connecticut, Nevada, Oregon, and Montana).

Always verify the current rule for your exact situation (phone vs in-person; public vs private; audio vs video).

State / D.C.	RCFP guide link (type into browser)
Alabama	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/alabama/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/alabama/</a>
Alaska	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/alaska/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/alaska/</a>
Arizona	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/arizona/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/arizona/</a>
Arkansas	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/arkansas/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/arkansas/</a>
California	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/california/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/california/</a>
Colorado	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/colorado/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/colorado/</a>
Connecticut	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/connecticut/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/connecticut/</a>
Delaware	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/delaware/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/delaware/</a>
Florida	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/florida/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/florida/</a>
Georgia	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/georgia/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/georgia/</a>
Hawaii	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/hawaii/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/hawaii/</a>
Idaho	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/idaho/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/idaho/</a>
Illinois	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/illinois/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/illinois/</a>
Indiana	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/indiana/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/indiana/</a>
Iowa	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/iowa/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/iowa/</a>
Kansas	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/kansas/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/kansas/</a>
Kentucky	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/kentucky/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/kentucky/</a>
Louisiana	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/louisiana/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/louisiana/</a>
Maine	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/maine/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/maine/</a>
Maryland	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/maryland/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/maryland/</a>
Massachusetts	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/massachusetts/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/massachusetts/</a>
Michigan	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/michigan/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/michigan/</a>
Minnesota	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/minnesota/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/minnesota/</a>

Mississippi	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/mississippi/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/mississippi/</a>
Missouri	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/missouri/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/missouri/</a>
Montana	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/montana/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/montana/</a>
Nebraska	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/nebraska/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/nebraska/</a>
Nevada	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/nevada/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/nevada/</a>
New Hampshire	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/new-hampshire/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/new-hampshire/</a>
New Jersey	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/new-jersey/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/new-jersey/</a>
New Mexico	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/new-mexico/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/new-mexico/</a>
New York	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/new-york/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/new-york/</a>
North Carolina	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/north-carolina/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/north-carolina/</a>
North Dakota	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/north-dakota/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/north-dakota/</a>
Ohio	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/ohio/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/ohio/</a>
Oklahoma	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/oklahoma/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/oklahoma/</a>
Oregon	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/oregon/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/oregon/</a>
Pennsylvania	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/pennsylvania/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/pennsylvania/</a>
Rhode Island	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/rhode-island/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/rhode-island/</a>
South Carolina	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/south-carolina/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/south-carolina/</a>
South Dakota	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/south-dakota/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/south-dakota/</a>
Tennessee	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/tennessee/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/tennessee/</a>
Texas	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/texas/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/texas/</a>
Utah	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/utah/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/utah/</a>
Vermont	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/vermont/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/vermont/</a>
Virginia	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/virginia/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/virginia/</a>
Washington	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/washington/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/washington/</a>
West Virginia	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/west-virginia/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/west-virginia/</a>
Wisconsin	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/wisconsin/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/wisconsin/</a>
Wyoming	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/wyoming/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/wyoming/</a>
District of Columbia	<a href="https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/district-of-columbia/">https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/district-of-columbia/</a>

## **Appendix 2 — Version History**

Master Handbook v1.0 — Compiles: Public Activist Manual (v1.2), Recording & Documentation Handbook (v1.3 FULL), quick cards, templates/forms, and state-by-state resource links.

Maintenance note: Laws and platform policies change. Update this handbook at least annually, and update Appendix 1 whenever a state page is revised.