

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.

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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	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/alabama/
Alaska	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/alaska/
Arizona	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/arizona/
Arkansas	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/arkansas/
California	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/california/
Colorado	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/colorado/
Connecticut	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/connecticut/
Delaware	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/delaware/
Florida	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/florida/
Georgia	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/georgia/
Hawaii	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/hawaii/
Idaho	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/idaho/
Illinois	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/illinois/
Indiana	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/indiana/
Iowa	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/iowa/
Kansas	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/kansas/
Kentucky	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/kentucky/
Louisiana	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/louisiana/
Maine	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/maine/
Maryland	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/maryland/
Massachusetts	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/massachusetts/
Michigan	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/michigan/
Minnesota	https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/minnesota/

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

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.