

DISCLAIMER — This card is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice. If you need legal advice, please consult an attorney.



The Ohio Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild

Contact Information:

- **E-mail:** cleveland@nlg.org
(Note: Do NOT send confidential or sensitive information.)
 - **Phone:** 216.505.0654 (5050 NLG)
(Note: this phone is only monitored when we have dispatched legal observers or when specifically requested.)
 - **Facebook:** [facebook.com/ohionlg](https://www.facebook.com/ohionlg) – Like our page for updates
 - **Submit requests for legal observers:** <https://tinyurl.com/ohionlg>
-

If you are ARRESTED or DETAINED:

***I am going to remain silent.
I do not consent to a search.
I want a lawyer.***

The Ohio Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (Ohio NLG) aims to provide a general description of legal and practical issues that activists might face. Be aware that each person's circumstances are unique, and minor factual differences may result in very different outcomes. For answers to specific legal questions, consult a qualified attorney.

www.nlg.org | [facebook.com/ohionlg](https://www.facebook.com/ohionlg)

To schedule a Legal Observer® training, e-mail us at cleveland@nlg.org.

Ohio NLG | Know Your Rights 'Fast Facts'

➤ ***What if a police officer asks me a question?***

- You are ***never obligated*** to answer any questions.
- However, Ohio law requires you to identify yourself if: (1) you are suspected of a crime; or (2) You are a witness to a felony, including property damage.
- ***Loudly & clearly*** ask, “Am I legally required to identify myself?”
- If the answer is yes, ***ONLY*** then are you obligated provide:
 - Legal name, Date of Birth, and Address
 - If you refuse to identify yourself in those situations, you can be arrested.
- You are ***not*** required to give a statement about anything that you witnessed or are suspected of.

➤ ***What if I am stopped by law enforcement?***

- Stay calm and ask if you are being detained.
 - If the answer is no, you are free to leave.
 - If the answer is yes, you must stay but ***are not*** obligated to answer any questions.
 - ***Loudly & clearly*** state, "I am going to remain silent" and then remain totally silent - even if officers continue to speak to you.
 - Be aware that law enforcement can lie to you to coerce you into speaking.

➤ ***What if a police officer asks to search my belongings?***

- You are ***not*** obligated to consent to a search.
- ***Loudly & clearly*** state, "I do not consent to a search."
- However:
 - If the officer has a search warrant or probable cause to conduct the search, they ***do not*** need to ask your permission.
 - If you are being detained, officers may conduct a brief over-the-clothes pat down to check for weapons.

➤ ***General Tips:***

- It is advisable to talk to a lawyer before signing any documents or answering questions.
- You should ***never*** discuss any criminal activity for which you have been accused with anyone except your attorney, *including on social media*.

➤ ***First Amendment Issues:***

- Streets, sidewalks, and parks are generally considered public forums for free speech activity and generally do not require a permit.
- However, protests that block traffic or involve amplified sound often require a permit.



National Lawyers Guild