

If You Your Rights Have Been Violated

- If your rights have been violated, please note that police misconduct cannot be challenged on the street.
 During the situation, try not to physically resist or threaten to file a complaint.
- Write down everything you remember immediately afterwards. Included in the information should be the officer's badge, patrol car numbers, and which agency they were from.
- File a written complaint with the internal affairs division of the agency the officer works at. You can even file a complaint to the civilian complaint board.

Who We Are

About Us

We are a non-profit organization providing those experiencing poverty with legal and health services, as well as inspiring others to do the same in their communities.

Contact Us

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE



Your Rights

- You have the right to remain silent.
 If you wish to exercise that right, tell the officer.
- You have the right to refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car, or your home if they do not have a warrant.
- If you are not under arrest, you have the right to leave.
- You have the right to a lawyer if arrested. Ask for one immediately.
- Regardless of your immigration or citizenship status, you have constitutional rights.

You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings.

This is true, but police may "pat down" your clothing if they suspect a weapon. Try to not physically resist, but you may refuse consent for any further search. Be aware that if you do consent, it may affect you later in court.

"To deny people their rights is to challenge their very humanity." ~Nelson Mandela

Your Responsibilities When Stopped

- Try to stay calm and be polite to the police.
- Do not interfere or obstruct the officer.
- Do not lie to the officer or try to provide false documents for any reason.
- Just in case, remember the details of the encounter.
- If you feel your rights have been violated, file a written or complaint or call the local ACLU.



In Case You Are Arrested

- Do not try to resist arrest even though you might believe it to be unfair.
- Say you wish to remain silent and ask for your right to a lawyer. You do not have to give any explanations or excuses; these rights are explicitly written within the Constitution. If you can't pay for a lawyer, one will be provided for you for free.
- You have the right to make a local phone call and the police cannot listen if you call your lawyer.
- Some considerations for noncitizens: (1) Ask your lawyer about how a criminal conviction or plea can affect you immigration status, and (2) Read all papers fully. If you cannot understand the papers, ask for an interpreter.