

# How to Flex Your Rights on the Metro

## Tip #1: Calmly Refuse to Be Searched

If you are randomly selected for a search, you have the right to refuse. When asked to submit, you may clearly and calmly say “Officer, I do not consent to any searches. I’m going to exit the station.” Do NOT talk back, raise your voice or physically resist.

## Tip #2: Realize that Refusal Is Not Guilt

WMATA states that individuals who refuse to be searched “will not be allowed to enter the Metro system with [unchecked] items.” Such a refusal will not constitute probable cause for an arrest or reasonable suspicion for a forcible detention.

## Tip #3: Shut Your Mouth and Your Wallet

Whether or not you consent to a search, you do not have to answer any police questions or give any information (e.g. your name, ID, citizenship or immigration status). But remember, anything you say can be used against you.

## Tip #4: WARNING: DO NOT RUN!

In the London subway an unarmed man was shot and killed after running from police.

## Tip #5: Report Abuses

If you believe your rights have been violated, write down the officer’s name and badge number and everything you remember as soon as possible. Then submit a complaint to the Metro Transit Police. (View our online tips for submitting a misconduct complaint.) Please send us a copy of your complaint to [info@flexyourrights.org](mailto:info@flexyourrights.org).



*Learn more about how to assert your constitutional rights during Metro searches and other police encounters at*

**[www.FlexYourRights.org](http://www.FlexYourRights.org)**