

**I'm not a US Citizen.
How can I protect myself?**

- Do not say anything about your immigration status to anyone but your lawyer.
- If an immigration agent visits you in lock-up, do not answer questions or sign anything before you talk to a lawyer.
- If you do not understand any papers they give you, tell the officer you need an interpreter.

**I think police violated my rights.
What should I do?**

- 1. Do not challenge police misconduct on the street.**
- 2. Identify the officer who violated your rights.**
 - Get the officer's badge number.
 - Get the number of the police car.
 - Write down the date, time, and location of the interaction.
- 3. File a written complaint with the internal affairs division of the police department.**

Need Help?

For help or questions about your legal rights:

Attorney Leon Smith
Center for Children's Advocacy
Racial Justice Project
203-335-0719

Center for Children's Advocacy
860-570-5327



Center for Children's Advocacy
65 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105
kiddscounsel.org and speakupteens.org

Stopped?
Arrested?

Know your rights.

Police Stops and Arrests

What are my rights?

Miranda v. Arizona is a famous Supreme Court case that gives you special legal rights if the police stop you or question you. These are called Miranda Rights.

Miranda Rights

- You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used against you in court.
- You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have the lawyer with you when you are questioned.
- You must ask to speak to a lawyer (not to a parent or guardian) to stop more questions from the police.
- If you cannot afford a lawyer, one can be appointed to represent you.

The information in this brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice in an individual case. If you need specific information about the law, please call us at 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.

What should I do if the police stop me?

- 1. Stay calm.**
 - Don't run, argue or interfere with police.
 - Follow the directions you are given.
 - Keep your hands visible.
 - Do not make any sudden movements.
- 2. Ask if you are free to leave.**
 - If the officer says yes, calmly walk away.
 - If the officer says no, calmly ask why you were stopped.
 - Do not jump to conclusions.
 - Wait and listen for the reason you have been stopped.
- 3. Be polite and assert your rights.**
 - You have the right to remain silent.
 - You cannot be punished for refusing to answer questions.
 - If you choose to remain silent, tell the officer.
 - You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings. Say "No. I do not consent."

Police can do a limited frisk (pat down) of the outside of your clothing if they suspect a weapon.

You have the right to refuse a further search of yourself or your belongings.

If you do consent, anything they find may be used against you if your case goes to court.

What should I do if I get arrested?

- 1. Do not resist, even if you think it is unfair.**
 - Go with the police officer.
 - Say that you wish to remain silent.
 - Ask for a lawyer immediately.
 - Do not say or sign anything without a lawyer present.
 - Do not make any decisions without a lawyer present.
 - Remember you have the right to a free lawyer.
- 2. You have the right to make a local phone call.**
 - You have the right to talk to a lawyer after you are in custody.
 - When you call a lawyer, police cannot listen.
 - If you are under 18, police must contact your parent or legal guardian.
 - If police have a search warrant, you have the right to see it.
- 3. Protect your rights.**
 - Even if they have a warrant, firmly state that you do not agree to any search. If police continue their search anyway, do not resist.