

I am not a U.S. 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



This brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice. If you need specific information about the law, please call 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.



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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.

What should I do if the police stop me?

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.

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 were stopped.

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?

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.

You have the right to make a local 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.

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.