

## **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 Samuel Rivera  
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.



[speakupteens.org](http://speakupteens.org)  
[cca-ct.org](http://cca-ct.org)

# Stopped? Arrested?

## **Know your rights.**

## Police Stops and Arrests

### What are my rights?

*Miranda v. Arizona* is a famous Supreme Court case in which a man was taken out of his home, subjected to two hours of interrogation, and coerced into confessing to a crime without his attorney present. Because of this case, police are required to provide Miranda Warnings (Miranda Rights) before a suspect is taken into custody for interrogation.

This gives you special legal rights if the police stop you or question you.

### 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 or 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 to a search, 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.

