What To Do If You’re Stopped By The Police

Think carefully about your words, movement, body language, and emotions.

Don’t get into an argument with the police. Remember, anything you say or do can be used against you.

Keep your hands where the police can see them.

Don’t run. Don’t touch any police officer.

Don’t resist even if you believe you are innocent.

Don’t complain on the scene or tell the police they are wrong or that you’re going to file a complaint.

Do not make any statements regarding the incident.

Ask for a lawyer immediately upon your arrest.

Remember: your rights and police car numbers.

Write down everything you remember. Ask for a lawyer immediately upon your arrest.

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If you or anyone else are injured, take photographs of the injuries as soon as possible, but make sure you seek medical attention first.

If you feel your rights have been violated, write a complaint with the police department’s internal affairs division or civilian complaint board, or call the ACLU at 617-482-3170.

Produced by the American Civil Liberties Union.

ARREST THE RACISM. Tell us about your race-or-ethnic-based traffic or pedestrian stop. Call 617-482-3170 or go to www.aclu.org

KEEP THIS CARD HANDY!
IF YOU HAVE A POLICE ENCOUNTER, YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF.

www.aclu.org

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If YOU ARE STOPPED FOR QUESTIONING

If you are stopped by a law enforcement officer, it is important to understand your rights and responsibilities. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

1. Identify the officer: Always ask for the officer's name and badge number. If they refuse, you can contact their department to verify their identity.
2. Don't resist: If the officer requests your cooperation, comply but do not resist or use physical force.
3. Observe your rights: You have the right to remain silent and ask to speak to an attorney if you are stopped for a traffic violation.
4. Cooperate: If the officer requests consent to search your car or belongings, you can choose to deny consent. However, this may lead to further questioning or detention.
5. Keep records: If you are stopped for a traffic violation, make notes of the circumstances and any interactions with the officer.
6. Be polite: Always be respectful and courteous to the officer, even if you feel upset or frustrated.

If YOU ARE STOPPED IN YOUR CAR

If you are stopped in your car, follow these steps:

1. Pull over safely: Move your vehicle to a safe location by the side of the road.
2. Turn off the engine: Turn off the engine and set the emergency brake.
3. Stay in your vehicle: Stay in your vehicle until the officer has completed his or her inspection.
4. Cooperate with the officer: Answer questions truthfully, but do not volunteer additional information.
5. Observe your rights: You have the right to remain silent and ask to speak to an attorney if you are stopped for a traffic violation.

If YOU ARE ARRESTED OR TAKEN TO A POLICE STATION

If you are arrested or taken to a police station, it is important to remember that you have certain rights.

1. You have the right to remain silent: You do not have to answer any questions unless you choose to do so.
2. You have the right to an attorney: You have the right to an attorney, and if you cannot afford one, one will be provided for you.
3. You have the right to be informed of your charges: You have the right to know the charges against you.
4. You have the right to a bail hearing: You have the right to a bail hearing to determine whether you will be released or detained.

It is important to remember that the officer will have a record of your arrest and will also report it to your employer and any other authorities that may be interested in your arrest.