

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

— *with* LAW ENFORCEMENT —

As protests against police misconduct continue throughout the US, it's important to know your rights when interacting with law enforcement. These visuals, facts, and figures were inspired by the "Know Your Rights" resources developed by the ACLU, which can be viewed on their website.

HANDS UP, DON'T SHOOT! According to a 1985 Supreme Court ruling, a police officer has the right to fire at a fleeing suspect only if that suspect poses a significant risk.

258

Americans
killed by
the police
in 2011

461

"justifiable"
homicides
by US police
in 2013

3

shots fired by
British police in
total during the
year of 2013

27%

of suspects killed
by NYPD from
1999-2014 were
unarmed

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE POLICE

IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE, stay calm, be polite, and don't run. Don't argue, resist, or obstruct the police, even if you are innocent or you believe that the police are violating your rights. Make sure to keep your hands where police can see them.



You have the right to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud.



Police may "pat down" your clothing if they suspect you have a weapon and may search you after an arrest, but **you have the right to refuse consent for any further search of yourself, your car or your home.**



Regardless of your immigration or citizenship status, you have constitutional rights.

601,285

people stopped and
searched on the streets
of New York City
in 2010

98%

of NYPD searches
in 2010 did not
find any illegal
materials

9%

of people
stopped in NYPD
searches in 2010
were white

UNDER ARREST?



Do not resist arrest, even if you believe the arrest is unfair. If you are under arrest, you have a right to ask why.



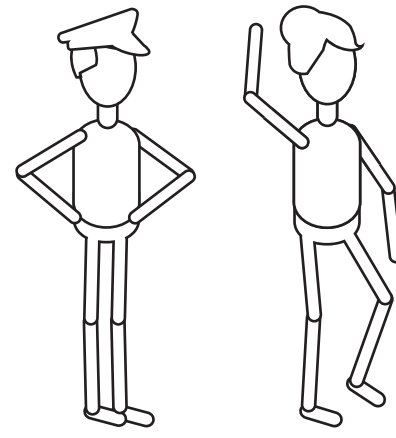
Say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately. Don't give any explanations or excuses. Remember, **you have the right to a free lawyer.** Don't say anything, sign anything or make any decisions without a lawyer.



You have the right to make a local phone call. The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer.

**FREE
to
LEAVE?**

BYE!



If you are not under arrest, **ask if you are free to leave.** If the officer says yes, **calmly and silently walk away.**

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS

IF YOU FEEL YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED BY THE POLICE...



Remember: police misconduct cannot be challenged on the street. Don't physically resist officers or threaten to file a complaint.



Write down everything you remember, including officers' badge and patrol car numbers, which agency the officers were from, and any other details. Get contact information for witnesses. Take photographs of any injuries.



File a written complaint with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board.

3,445

police misconduct reports
filed each year in the US
(among 17,000
law enforcement agencies)

179

fatalities involving
on-duty NYPD
officers from
1999-2014

1

officer charged
with a crime
relating to these
179 killings

WITNESSING MISCONDUCT

IF YOU ARE WITNESSING POLICE MISCONDUCT, DOCUMENT IT!

In most US states, **you have the legal right to photograph and/or film police activities on public property.**

Police officers may not confiscate or demand to view your digital photographs or video without a warrant.

However, throughout the US, **many people are arrested each year for attempting to document police activity.**

Here is a transcript of a conversation between a man with a camera and a police officer in Baltimore:

"I'm allowed to do this," the man told the officer.
"Get it out of my face," the officer replied.
"I have my rights," the man said.
"You have no rights," the officer said.
But the man didn't stop rolling and was once again aggressively approached.
"Do you see the police presence here? Do you see us all? We're not [expletive] around. Do you understand? Do not disrespect us and do not not listen to us," the officer said. "Now walk away and shut your [expletive] mouth or you're going to jail, do you understand?"
After backing away, the officer came at the man a third time, appearing to grab him.
"I thought I had freedom of speech here," the man said.
"You don't. You just lost it," the officer replied.

3

US states consider it illegal
to film the police
(Massachusetts, Maryland,
and Illinois)

SOURCES:

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