

★ KNOW ★ — YOUR — RIGHTS

STOPPED BY THE POLICE

IF YOU'RE STOPPED BY THE POLICE

- Stay calm. Don't run. Don't argue, resist, or obstruct the police. Keep your hands where police can see them.
- Ask if you're free to leave. If yes, calmly and silently walk away.
- If you're under arrest, tell the officer you wish to remain silent.
- You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings.

IF YOU'RE STOPPED IN YOUR CAR

- Stop the car in a safe place as quickly as possible.
- Turn off the car, turn on the internal light, open the window part way, and place your hands on the wheel.
- Upon request, show police your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.
- If an officer asks to look inside your car you can refuse. But if police believe your car contains evidence of a crime, they can search it without your consent.
- Both drivers and passengers have the right to remain silent. If you're a passenger, you can ask if you're free to leave. If yes, silently leave.

IF THE POLICE COME TO YOUR HOME

- You do not have to let them in unless they have a warrant.
- Ask them to show you the warrant. Officers can only search the areas and for the items listed on the warrant. An arrest warrant allows police to enter the home of the person listed on the warrant if they believe the person is inside.
- Even if officers have a warrant, you may remain silent. If you choose to speak, step outside and close the door.

IF YOU'RE ARRESTED

- Do not resist arrest.
- Say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer. If you can't afford a lawyer, you have the right to a free one.
- 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.

IF YOU FEEL YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED

- As soon as you are able, write down the officers' badge and patrol car numbers, which agency the officers were from, and any other details.
- Get contact information for witnesses.
- If you're injured, seek medical attention and immediately take photographs of your injuries.
- File a written complaint with the agency's internal affairs division and civilian complaint board.

This information is not intended as legal advice. Some state laws may vary. Updated July 2016.