

The police are *at my door...*

- **If officers knock on your door**, ask through the door if they have a warrant.
- **If the officers do not have a warrant**, don't let them into your home and say, "*I'm not letting you in without a warrant.*" and, "*I don't consent to you searching my home.*"
- **If the officers have a warrant**, ask the officers to slip it under the door or show it to you through a window.
- **Do not consent to the search.** Say, "*I don't consent to the search.*" Do not interfere if the officers still do the search.
- **Call your lawyer.** Ask if you are allowed to watch the search. If allowed, take notes about the search. Do not answer questions or say anything to the police.
- **If others are present**, have them act as witnesses to observe what is happening.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS ENCOUNTERING POLICE



I've been *stopped* by police...

- **DETERMINE IF FREE TO GO.** Ask the officer, "*Am I free to go?*" If **yes**, calmly walk away. If **no**, you are detained.
- **REMAIN SILENT.** The right to remain silent must be spoken to be effective. As soon as you know you have been detained, say, "*I want a lawyer. I will remain silent.*" Afterwards, remain silent.
- **IF ASKED, PROVIDE REQUIRED INFORMATION.** If an officer asks for your name and address, you must answer. You must give the officer your ID if they ask for it. **You do not have to answer any other questions.**
- **REFUSE SEARCHES.** If an officer wants to search you, say and repeat, "*I do not consent to searches.*" Do not obstruct the police from searching you or your bag.

* **REDUCE RISK TO YOURSELF.** Don't physically resist officers. Don't run or obstruct the officers. Keep your hands visible.

I've been *pulled over* by police...

- **PROVIDE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.** Keep your hands visible and inform the officer you are reaching for your paperwork. Provide your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.
- **REMAIN SILENT.** Both driver and passengers have the right to remain silent and are not obligated to answer further questions. Clearly assert your rights and say, "*I will remain silent.*"
- **REFUSE SEARCHES.** If an officer wants to search your car, say, "*I don't consent to searches.*"

* **REDUCE RISK TO YOURSELF.** Turn off the car.
Turn on the internal light. Partially open the window.
Place your hands on the wheel.

If your rights have been violated, file an ACLU-CO intake form, or file a complaint with the police department's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board.

I've been *arrested* by police...

- **REMAIN SILENT & ASK FOR A LAWYER.** Don't say anything, sign anything or make any decisions without a lawyer. Say, "*I want a lawyer. I will remain silent.*"
- **DO NOT TALK ABOUT YOUR CASE.** While in jail, assume you are being watched and listened to. Do not speak about your case with jail staff or people incarcerated with you.
- **MAKE A PHONE CALL.** Jail lines are recorded. Police can and will listen to any call you make on a jail phone. **One exception: police are not allowed to listen to calls with your lawyer.**
- **SEEING A LAWYER.** If you can't pay for a lawyer, the court will assign you one for free. You must be taken before a judge to set bond within 48 hours of your arrest. **Remember: don't say anything or sign anything without your lawyer.**

* **REDUCE RISK TO YOURSELF.** Do not resist arrest, even if you believe the arrest is unfair. Follow the officers' commands.