

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 don't want to talk to you.*"
- **If the officers have a warrant**, ask the officers to slip it under the door or show it to you through a window.
- **If you see a mistake on the warrant**, tell the officers about the mistake. Then say, "*I don't consent to the search.*" But do not interfere if the officers still do the search.
- **Call your lawyer.** Ask if you are allowed to watch the search. If you are allowed to, you should take notes about the search.
- If others are present, have them act as witnesses to watch carefully what is happening.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS ENCOUNTERING POLICE



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

- **DETERMINE IF FREE TO GO.** Ask the officer, "*Are you detaining me, or am I free to go?*" If **yes**, calmly walk away. If **no**, you are being detained. Ask the officer what crime you are suspected of committing.
 - **REMAIN SILENT.** You only need to provide identification and answer your name and address. When an officer asks you other questions, say "*I'm going to remain silent. I'd like to see a lawyer.*"
 - **REFUSE SEARCHES.** If an officer wants to search anything beyond patting down the outside of your clothing, say "*I don't consent to searches.*"
- **REDUCE RISK TO YOURSELF.** Don't physically resist officers. Don't run or obstruct the officers. Keep your hands visible.

KEEP THIS CARD WITH YOU!

IF YOU HAVE A POLICE ENCOUNTER YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF.

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

- **PROVIDE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.** Including driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.
- **REMAIN SILENT.** Both drivers and passengers have the right to remain silent. You only need to answer your name and address. When an officer asks you other questions, say, "*I'm going to remain silent.*"
- **REFUSE SEARCHES.** If an officer wants to search your car, say, "*I don't consent to searches.*"
- **DETERMINE IF FREE TO GO.** If you're a passenger, you can ask if you're free to leave. If **yes**, calmly walk away.

* **REDUCE RISK TO YOURSELF.** Turn off the car.
Turn on the internal light. Open the window part way.
Place your hands on the wheel.

If your rights have been violated, file a complaint with police department's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board, or call the ACLU hotline, **1-877-668-8646**.

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'm going to remain silent. I'd like to see a lawyer.*"
- **MAKE A PHONE CALL.** The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer. They can and often will listen to a call made to anyone else.
- **HAVE A PUBLIC DEFENDER.** If you can't pay for a lawyer, you have a right to a public defender, and should ask the police how the lawyer can be contacted.

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

If you can't pay for the cash bail, contact Colorado Freedom Fund at **720-263-0111**, or at coloradofreedomfund.org.