

- Ask if you are free to leave. If the officer says yes, calmly and silently walk away.
- Don't argue, touch, 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 the officer can see them.
- Point out that you are not disrupting anyone else's activity and that the First Amendment protects your actions.
- The police can ask you to identify yourself, for your address and for a brief recounting of the event
- If you feel that your right to free speech has been violated, contact us at [intake@aclu-co.org](mailto:intake@aclu-co.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.ACLU-CO.ORG/NEED-LEGAL-HELP](http://WWW.ACLU-CO.ORG/NEED-LEGAL-HELP)

# ★ KNOW YOUR RIGHTS ★ PROTESTERS

## DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS

The First Amendment gives you the right to march, make speeches, hand out leaflets, hold and attend rallies, carry posters and demonstrate. This right cannot be restricted even if what you say is controversial. This right is protected in traditional public forums.

### YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTEST:

**IN PUBLIC AREAS:** Areas such as streets, sidewalks, parks and anywhere similar activities have taken place in the past are considered traditional public forums.

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**AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** Protest activities can be prohibited by nonstudents on school grounds while school is in session if the event interferes with school activities.

**AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES:** Generally protest activities on the public areas of state university property are entitled to broad First Amendment protection, but there may be rules prohibiting demonstrations by persons other than students and staff.

### **THINGS TO REMEMBER:**

- Don't block traffic, pedestrian or automobile, or access to buildings.
- Remember, you have the right to photograph or videotape any encounter with law enforcement.
- Stay off private property unless you have permission of the owner or you may be subject to arrest and prosecution.
- A permit may be needed depending on the type and size of the event, as well as the locality in which it will be held.

- Check with your local government for more information.
- A fee can be charged for administrative costs. The time, place, and manner of the event may be regulated to avoid traffic problems and protect public safety.
- Counter-demonstrators have the right to be present and to voice their displeasure as long as they do not physically disrupt your event.

### **IF YOU ARE ARRESTED:**

- If you do not obey an officer, you might be arrested and taken from the scene.
- Don't sign anything, or make any decisions without a lawyer.
- Remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately. Don't give any explanations or excuses.

### **IF YOU ARE APPROACHED, QUESTIONED OR DETAINED BY A POLICE OFFICER:**

- Stay calm, be polite, and don't run.