

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE STOPPED BY

POLICE, IMMIGRATION AGENTS OR THE FBI

We rely on the police to keep us safe and treat us all fairly, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin or religion. This card provides tips for interacting with police and understanding your rights. Separate rules apply at checkpoints and when entering the U.S. (including at airports).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- **You have the right** to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud.
- **You have the right** to refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car or your home.
- **You have the right** to calmly leave if you are not under arrest.
- **You have the right** to a lawyer if you are arrested. Ask for one immediately.
- **You have constitutional rights** regardless of your immigration or citizenship status,

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Do** stay calm and be polite.
- **Do not** interfere with or obstruct the police.
- **Do not** lie or give false documents.
- **Do** prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested.
- **Do** remember the details of the encounter.

If you feel your rights have been violated, contact the ACLU of Michigan to file a legal complaint.



ACLU of Michigan
2966 Woodward, Detroit MI
(313)578-6800
www.aclumich.org

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IF YOU ARE STOPPED FOR QUESTIONING

Stay calm. Don't run. Don't argue, resist or obstruct the police, even if you are innocent or police are violating your rights. Keep your hands where police can see them.

Ask if you are free to leave. If the officer says yes, calmly and silently walk away. If you are under arrest, you have a right to know why.

You have the right to remain silent and cannot be punished for refusing to answer questions. If you wish to remain silent, tell the officer out loud. In some states, you must give your name if asked to identify yourself.

You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings, but police may "pat down" your clothing if they suspect a weapon. You should not physically resist, but you have the right to refuse consent for any further search. If you do consent, it can affect you later in court.

IF YOU ARE 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 or immigration agent asks to look inside your car, you can refuse to consent to the search. But if police believe your car contains evidence of a crime, your car can be searched without your consent.

Both drivers and passengers have the right to remain silent. If you are a passenger, you can ask if you are free to leave. If the officer says yes, sit silently or calmly leave. Even if the officer says no, you have the right to remain silent.

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IF YOU ARE ARRESTED

Do not resist arrest, even if you believe the arrest is unfair.

Say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately. If you can't pay for 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.

Prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested. Make emergency plans if you have children or take medication.

Special considerations for non-citizens:

- Ask your lawyer about the effect of a criminal conviction or plea on your immigration status.
- Don't discuss your immigration status with anyone but your lawyer.
- Read all papers fully. If you do not understand or cannot read the papers, tell the officer you need an interpreter.

IF YOU ARE CONTACTED BY THE FBI

If an FBI agent comes to your home or workplace, **you do not have to answer any questions.** Tell the agent you want to **speak to a lawyer first.**

If you are asked to meet with FBI agents for an interview, **you have the right to say you do not want to be interviewed.** If you agree to an interview, **have a lawyer present.**

You do not have to answer any questions you feel uncomfortable answering, and can say that you will only answer questions on a specific topic.

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IF YOU FEEL YOUR RIGHTS WERE VIOLATED

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 officer's badge and patrol car numbers, which agency the officers were from, and other details. Get contact information for witnesses. If you are injured, take photographs of your injuries (but seek medical attention first).

File a written complaint with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board. In most cases, you can file a complaint anonymously if you wish.

Contact the ACLU of Michigan at (313)578-6800

File a complaint online at www.aclumich.org

Since 1959, The ACLU of Michigan's mission has been to preserve, protect, defend and advance the guarantees of the Bill of Rights and other civil liberties for all persons.



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IF THE POLICE OR IMMIGRATION AGENTS COME TO YOUR HOME

If the police or immigration agents come to your home, **you do not have to let them in unless they have certain kinds of warrants.**

A search warrant allows police to enter the address listed on the warrant, but officers can only search the areas and for the items listed. An arrest warrant allows police to enter the home of the person listed on the warrant if they believe the person is inside. A warrant of removal/deportation (ICE warrant) does not allow officers to enter a home without consent.

Ask the officer to slip the warrant under the door or hold it up to the window so you can inspect it.

Even if officers have a warrant, **you have the right to remain silent.** If you choose to speak to the officers, **step outside and close the door.**

IF YOU ARE QUESTIONED ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

You have the right to remain silent and do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with police, immigration agents or any other officials.

You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, whether you are a U.S. citizen, or how you entered the country. Separate rules apply at international borders and airports, and for individuals on certain nonimmigrant visas.

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TODAY

If you are not a U.S. citizen and an immigration agent requests your immigration papers, **you must show them with you.** If you are over 18, carry your immigration documents with you at all times. If you do not have immigration papers, say you want to remain silent.

Do not lie about your citizenship status or provide fake documents. Do not lie about your citizenship status or provide fake documents.

IF YOU ARE TAKEN INTO IMMIGRATION OR "ICE" CUSTODY

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Do not sign anything, such as a voluntary departure or stipulated removal, without talking to a lawyer. If you sign, you may be giving up your opportunity to try to stay in the U.S.

Remember your immigration number ("A" number) and give it to your family. It will help family members locate you.

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