

Your Rights with the Police

◆ You never have to give any information to the police. If police try to speak to you, do not answer any questions.

◆ If you are stopped, ask if you are being detained. If the police detain you, say: “I am going to remain silent, I want to see a lawyer.” You do not have to reveal your immigration status.

◆ If you are arrested, say: “I am going to remain silent. I want to see a lawyer.” Repeat this every time the police question you. Do not wait for them to read you your rights.

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◆ Police are supposed to stop questioning you when you ask for a lawyer. The only thing you should say to them is: “I am going to remain silent, I want to see a lawyer.” Your right to remain silent does not include booking questions, which include your address, date of birth, etc. Answering these questions may get you out of jail more quickly. However, talking about the details of why you were arrested can easily incriminate you and your friends.

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◆ If you are arrested for a non-violent misdemeanor police are required by California law to cite and release you if you identify yourself (usually by showing picture ID, but they can accept less).

Searches

If the police want to search you, say “I do not consent to a search.” It can be dangerous and illegal to physically resist a search, but you should never verbally consent. Telling the police you do not consent to any searches may limit the evidence they can use against you later.

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Arrest Warnings

The police are usually required to give audible warnings and let you leave before arresting for unlawful assembly. They often don't. Also, they can arrest you for other offenses without a warning.

Police Misconduct

Do not expect police to tell the truth or follow the law. They are not always required to read your Miranda Rights. If you believe your rights may have been violated, write a detailed account of what happened, take pictures of any injuries, then contact the NLG.

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Free Speech

You do not need a permit to exercise your rights to freedom of speech and assembly. The bigger, louder, and more obstructive your event is, the more the police will hassle you if you don't have a permit. Contact the NLG for details.

**This information is no substitute for specialized legal advice from an attorney about your situation.*



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558 Capp St. San Francisco, CA 94110
415-285-5067 www.nlgf.org

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Know Your Rights For Demonstrations

The NLG Legal Support Hotline:
415-285-1011

If you have been arrested at a protest, march or demonstration, call this number from jail. We will do our best to find a lawyer who will take your case for free. This number is not staffed 24 hours a day unless you make arrangements in advance.

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