



This booklet contains information on interacting with the police. The police harass and hurt people in the streets everyday. Understanding the laws that police are supposed to follow can be a tool to defend yourself against violence, arrest, prosecution and conviction.

The stop. If police stop you on the street and ask for your name and identification, it's best to give your first name and show your ID. The police may ask, "do you know why I stopped you?" or "where are you going?" Calmly state that you won't answer any more questions. Ask, "**Am I free to go?**" If the answer is yes, you can walk away. Do not run. If the officer says you are not free to go, ask, "**Am I being detained?**" Being detained is not the same as being arrested, but arrest may follow.

The search. If the police claim that they're looking for a weapon on you, they can pat down the outside of your clothing. They are not supposed to frisk you to look for anything but a weapon. If they feel a metal object, they can search your pockets, inner clothing or bag. If that happens, say clearly, "**I do not consent to this search.**" If they keep searching anyway, it's important for your safety to not physically resist them, but repeatedly state that you do not consent to the search.

Questioning. You are not required to answer any questions while being detained or after arrested. Do not tell the police anything except your name. Invoke your right to remain silent by saying, "**I choose to remain silent.**" *Everything* you say about yourself or others *will* be used against you in court. Ask for a lawyer right away. Say, "**I want to speak to a lawyer.**" Repeat this request to every officer who tries to question you and do not let them bargain with you for information.

In your car.

If you are pulled over, turn your car off, roll down the window, and keep your hands on the steering wheel. Don't immediately reach into your glove compartment for your license and registration. Wait until the officer asks to see your paperwork before retrieving your documents. Police can conduct a warrantless search of your car if they claim to suspect you have an illegal item. Say, "**I do not consent to this search.**" If they arrest you, **remain silent** and **ask for a lawyer**.

Documentation.

If an officer does anything to harm you, write down the officer's badge number, name or other identifying information. If there are witnesses that are willing to help you, ask for their names and phone numbers. If you are injured, get medical attention and take pictures of the injuries as soon as you can. If you or anyone is filming the interaction, **do not film anyone's face** except for the police officers. Never film anything that can incriminate you or others, and **never post on social media**.

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RAM fights for the abolition of police, prisons, and all forms of state control over communities.