

4. Sometimes you can be released without bail, or have bail lowered. Have your lawyer ask the judge about this possibility. You must be taken before the judge on the next court day after arrest.

5. Do not make any decisions in your case until you have talked with a lawyer.

IN YOUR HOME

1. If the police knock and ask to enter your home, you don't have to admit them unless they have a warrant signed by a judge.

2. However, in some emergency situations (like when a person is screaming for help inside, or when the police are chasing someone) officers are allowed to enter and search your home without a warrant.

3. If you are arrested, the police can search you and the area close by. If you are in a building, "close by" usually means just the room you are in.

We all recognize the need for effective law enforcement, but we should also understand our own rights and responsibilities – especially in our relationships with the police. Everyone, including minors, has the right to courteous and respectful police treatment. If your rights are violated, don't try to deal with the situation at the scene. You can talk to a lawyer afterwards, or file a complaint with the Internal Affairs or Civilian Complaint Board.

Produced by the American Civil Liberties Union.
ARREST THE RACISM. Tell us about your race- or ethnic-based traffic or pedestrian stop. **Call 1-877-6-PROFILE or go to aclu.org/profiling**

What To Do If You're Stopped By The Police

Think carefully about your words, movement, body language, and emotions.

Don't get into an argument with the police.

Remember, **anything you say or do** can be used against you.

Keep your hands where the police can see them.

Don't run. Don't touch any police officer.

Don't resist even if you believe you are innocent.

Don't complain on the scene or tell the police they're wrong or that you're going to file a complaint.

Do not make any statements regarding the incident.

Ask for a lawyer immediately upon your arrest.

Remember **officers' badge & patrol car** numbers.

Write down everything you remember ASAP.

Try to find **witnesses** & their names & phone numbers.

If you are injured, **take photographs of the injuries** as soon as possible, but make sure you **seek medical attention** first.

If you feel your rights have been violated, **file a written complaint** with police department's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board, or call the ACLU hotline, **1-877-6-PROFILE**.

**KEEP THIS CARD HANDY!
IF YOU HAVE A POLICE ENCOUNTER,
YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF.**

