

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS NYC

- When a police encounter occurs
- If police stop and/or frisk you
- If the police arrest you
- If police come to your home

## WHEN A POLICE ENCOUNTER OCCURS, ALWAYS:

- Ask for the officer's contact card. The contact card should have the officer's name, shield number, and command. If you ask for a contact card, an officer must provide one.
- If you are unable to get an officer's badge and name, note the physical description of the officer.
- Look for the Precinct Number or the Division (Transit, Housing, etc.). This is located on the brass insignia on the officer's shirt collar.
- If you are stopped and/or frisked but NOT arrested, the office MUST offer you a contact card.
- If you are hurt, photograph your injuries. Seek medical attention and keep any relevant medical records.
- Make note of:
  - the number of officers present;
  - any witnesses;
  - the address of the incident;
  - when (date, time of day) the incident occurred.

## IF POLICE STOP AND/OR FRISK YOU:

1. Remain calm.
2. Do not reach into your pockets. Keep your hands visible.
3. Ask, "Why am I being stopped" and "Am I free to go?"
4. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used against you and may give the police a reason to arrest you.
5. If an officer starts to frisk or search you, you can say, "I do not consent to this frisk/search."
6. You have the right to record an incident, as long as you are not interfering with a police investigation.
7. It's against the law to resist a lawful arrest.

## IF THE POLICE ARREST YOU:

- If you are under 16, officers do not have to take you to a precinct.
- Stay silent, tell the police you want to remain silent, and ask to speak to a lawyer.
- Be aware that the police are permitted to lie about your situation and make false promises.
- Know that the police may listen to and record anything you say at the precinct.



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## IF POLICE COME TO YOUR HOME:

**FIRST:** Ask to see a police badge.

**SECOND:** Ask why they have come to your home.

**THIRD:** Tell the police that you do not consent to any search if you object. You have the right to refuse entry into your home unless there is a valid warrant.

**FOURTH:** Ask each officer for a contact card, which should include the officer's name, shield number, and command.

For an **ARREST WARRANT**, check the name to make sure they have the right person.

For a **SEARCH WARRANT**, make sure they have the right address. **Look** on the warrant to see what they are searching for in your home.

They are required to give you a receipt for any property taken. If they don't give you a receipt, ask for it.

They are not required to give you a receipt for property seized as evidence of a crime.

## IF YOU NEED INFORMATION ABOUT A FRIEND OR RELATIVE WHO HAS BEEN ARRESTED:

### CALL CENTRAL BOOKING IN YOUR BOROUGH:

**Bronx** (718) 590-2804  
**Brooklyn** (718) 875-6586  
**Manhattan** (212) 374-5256  
**Queens** (718) 520-9311  
**Staten Island** (718) 876-8490

You can find the information for any precinct by calling **311**.

For additional information and resources, call **877-301-2201**.

## TO FILE A COMPLAINT ABOUT POLICE MISCONDUCT:



**Contact the Civilian  
Complaint Review Board  
by calling 311  
or by visiting  
[www.nyc.gov/html/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/html/ccrb)**

**This is New York City specific and is for informational purposes only.  
It should not be considered legal advice.**