# Know Your Rights NYC

### 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 officer 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.
**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.