

Disclaimers
This zine is not a replacement for legal advice. The author of this zine is not affiliated with the National Lawyers Guild.

The police aren't particularly known for respecting people's rights, but saying the following phrases out loud when interacting with a cop could help make it harder for them to use your statements or anything found on you as evidence during a trial.

Know your rights



So, a cop is trying to talk to you at an action...

A Primer on Exercising Your Rights with Law Enforcement



If the cop gives you the chance to speak, ask this question to determine if you legally need to engage with them. If they say anything besides "yes," you can ignore them and calmly walk away. The less you say, the better!

"Am I being detained?"

First, discern the type of encounter

This zine is based on info from The National Lawyers Guild's *Know Your Rights: A Guide for Protestors* booklet. Scan the QR code below to read the full publication.



The 4th amendment protects you from unreasonable searches. Clearly deny your consent if a cop moves to search you or your belongings. They may search you anyway, but saying this phrase out loud in the moment can help your case in a trial later. Note that if you are arrested, being searched is a legal part of the process.

"I do not consent to any searches."

Then, invoke the 4th Amendment

Bonus: Safety tips for protestors

Make sure a trusted friend who is not attending the protest knows your plan.

Turn on Airplane mode and disable FaceID to keep cops from looking at your phone.

Do not bring anything you wouldn't want the cops to see: info about the movement, details about who planned the protest, illegal drugs, etc.

Bring any medication doses you would need if arrested in its original prescription bottle.

Really, the less you say the better! Cops are allowed to lie to you and manipulate you into oversharing. The only information you legally need to provide is your name and address, ideally what's written on your I.D. card.

"I will not talk. I want to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer."

Lastly, invoke the 5th Amendment

What happens when you're arrested

Even if you didn't do anything illegal and spoke only those words, police might still arrest you. You'll be brought to jail and (are supposed to be) released within 48 hours. Once you have been charged, you will be given court dates to attend.

If you'll require a lawyer, you can call the N.L.G. Hotline and leave a message: "My name is [name], I was arrested at [protest]. I need to be represented by a lawyer," etc.

N.L.G. Hotline • 733-309-1198