

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS:

- We all recognize the need for effective law enforcement, but we should also understand our own rights and responsibilities - especially in our interactions with the police. Everyone has the right to courteous and respectful police treatment, including individuals who are homeless.
- If you feel that you have been harassed by the police for carrying out life-sustaining activities and/or the police take your property and do not tell you how to get it back, **make notes right away** with dates and complete descriptions of all incidents.
- If you feel your rights are violated, **file a written complaint** with:
 - The police department's internal affairs division
 - Citizen Police Review Board (Clark County only)
 - The ACLU of Nevada

HOW TO CONTACT THE ACLU OF NEVADA:

The ACLU of Nevada does not have the resources to do any in-person or over-the-phone intake or consultations whatsoever and cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide you with assistance. However, you may obtain or drop off a complaint form at one of our offices for our consideration.
732 S. Sixth St. #200A 1325 Airmotive Way #202
Las Vegas, NV 89101 Reno, NV 89502
You can also complete a complaint form online with descriptions of the incident at www.aclunv.org.

TIPS ON INTERACTING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

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 are going to file a complaint.
Do not make any statements or confessions even if the police say it will help you avoid arrest, prosecution, or having something on your record. If you are arrested, immediately **ask for a lawyer**.
Do not make a deal until you speak with a lawyer. Remember **officers' badge and patrol car** numbers. **Write down everything** you remember ASAP.
Try to find **witnesses**, and record their names and 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 are violated, **do not argue with the officers**. Instead, file a complaint (details on back).

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



IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE:

- **What you say to the police is always important.** What you say can be used against you, and it can give the police an excuse to arrest you, especially if you bad-mouth an officer.
- **Do not interfere with or obstruct the police** - you can be arrested for it.
- **Politely ask if you are under arrest.** If you are, you have the right to know why.
- **The police can legally ask for your name** if you have been properly detained, and you can be arrested for refusing to give it. If you reasonably fear your name is incriminating, you can claim the right to remain silent, which may be a defense if you are arrested anyway.
- **You have a legal right to refuse to provide information other than your name** or answer questions if you are detained or arrested.
- **Police may "pat down" your clothes** if they suspect a concealed weapon.
- **You do not have to consent to any further search** of yourself or your belongings. If you DO consent to a search, it can affect your rights later in court. If the police say they have a search warrant, ASK TO SEE IT.
- If the police proceed to search, **do not physically resist, but make it clear that you do not consent to any further search.**
- **Don't fight with or bad-mouth a police officer or run away**, even if you believe what is happening is illegal and unreasonable. That could lead to your arrest or negative reactions from law enforcement.

YOUR RIGHTS TO ENGAGE IN LIFE SUSTAINING ACTIVITIES:

- If you are unable to obtain a bed in a shelter, **you cannot be legally arrested or ticketed just for conducting life-sustaining activities.** Examples of life-sustaining activities are: sleeping on sidewalks/public places or urinating in public places where you have tried but you cannot obtain access to any alternatives.
- If the police find you engaging in life-sustaining activities that would otherwise be illegal, **under the law they must first offer you shelter.**
- If shelter is not available, then the police cannot arrest or ticket you for your activities.
- If shelter is available and you refuse it, then the police have discretion to arrest or ticket you.

YOUR PROPERTY RIGHTS:

- You have the right to be free from unreasonable seizure and confiscation of your property.
- **The police cannot legally take your property** without giving you an opportunity to be heard by a court.
- If the police take and destroy your property, **you have the right to be compensated** for the loss of your property.

YOUR FREEDOM TO TRAVEL:

- **You have the right to travel** without harassment.
- **The police cannot legally tell you that you must stay in one specific area.**

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