*Note: Some state laws may vary. Separate rules apply at checkpoints and when entering the U.S. (including at airports).*

YOUR RIGHTS
- You have the right to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud.
- You have the right to refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car or your home.
- If you are not under arrest, you have the right to calmly leave.
- You have the right to a lawyer if you are arrested. Ask for one immediately.
- Regardless of your immigration or citizenship status, you have constitutional rights.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES
- Do stay calm and be polite.
- Do not interfere with or obstruct the police.
- Do not lie or give false documents.
- Do prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested.
- Do remember the details of the encounter.
- Do file a written complaint or call your local Attorney if you feel your rights have been violated.

IF YOU ARE STOPPED FOR QUESTIONING
**Stay calm.** Don't run. Don't argue, resist or obstruct the police, even if you are innocent or police are violating your rights. Keep your hands where police can see them.
**Ask if you are free to leave.** If the officer says yes, calmly and silently walk away. If you are under arrest, you have a right to know why.
**You have the right to remain silent** and cannot be punished for refusing to answer questions. If you wish to remain silent, tell the officer out loud. In some states, you must give your name if asked to identify yourself.
**You do not have to consent to a search** of yourself or your belongings, but police may "pat down" your clothing if they suspect a weapon. You should not physically resist, but you have the right to refuse consent for any further search. If you do consent, it can affect you later in court.

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED
**Do not resist arrest,** even if you believe the arrest is unfair.
**Say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately.** Don't give any explanations or excuses. If you can't pay for a lawyer, you have the right to a free one. Don't say anything, sign anything or make any decisions without a lawyer.
**You have the right to make a local phone call.** The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer.
**Prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested.** Memorize the phone numbers of your family and your lawyer. Make emergency plans if you have children or take medication.
**Special considerations for non-citizens:**
- Ask your lawyer about the effect of a criminal conviction or plea on your immigration status.
- Don't discuss your immigration status with anyone but your lawyer.
- While you are in jail, an immigration agent may visit you. Do not answer questions or sign anything before talking to a lawyer.
- Read all papers fully. If you do not understand or cannot read the papers, tell the officer you need an interpreter.

IF YOU FEEL YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED
**Remember: police misconduct cannot be challenged on the street.** Don't physically resist officers or threaten to file a complaint.
**Write down everything you remember**, including officers' badge and patrol car numbers, which agency the officers were from, and any other details. Get contact information for witnesses. If you are injured, take photographs of your injuries (but seek medical attention first).
**File a written complaint** with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board. In most cases, you can file a complaint anonymously if you wish.
**Call your local Attorney**

*This information is not intended as legal advice.*

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