

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



What should you say when being stopped and questioned by the police ?

The police can only ask for your name, address, and birth date. The cops must have good reasons to ask more of you.

If the police ask to search your bag or where you are going, you are not required to answer unless(1) the cops have good reason to ask that question or (2) you freely allow them to check your or tell them where you are going.

What about when you are arrested and taken to the police station?

When arrested the police must inform you of right to remain silent and your right to seek a lawyer before making a statement.



What is a statement ?

A statement is what *you* say happened in an incident from *your perspective*. The statement is important because it is evidence *enforceable* in a court of law, basically it can be used in court. It is advisable that you do not speak to the police or give a statement without a lawyer present.

If you don't understand English too well, should you still make a statement?

If you cannot understand what the police have said to you, then you are entitled to an interpreter. Statements should only be made if you understand what is happening around you since you were arrested.

