

Know Your Rights

What The Police

CAN

VERSUS

CAN'T DO

When encountering the police, it is important that you know your rights. Too many times, we forfeit our rights by volunteering information and allowing the police to go beyond what the law allows them to do.



The police may stop you on the street if they have reasonable suspicion to believe you have committed a crime or were about to commit a crime. However, just because they stopped you, it does **NOT** mean they have the right to frisk or pat you down.

They may pat down your outer clothing **ONLY** if they have reasonable suspicion to believe you are armed with a weapon. Police officers may not detain you and search inside your inner clothing and belongings for no reason. **Always ask if you are free to leave and if so, LEAVE.**



The police can't search your car just because they pulled you over. They must have a legal justification for searching your vehicle after a lawful traffic stop. They can search your car after arrest or if they see, hear, or smell something suspicious during the traffic stop.

You do not have to agree to let the police search your car. You can and should say "NO, I DO NOT AGREE."



The law says you do not have to answer questions and incriminate yourself. Please know that **ANYTHING** you say to the police **CAN** and most likely **WILL** be used against you during criminal proceedings.

You have the right to **NOT** answer their questions, no matter how persuasive or harmless they may sound. If detained or arrested, you also have the right to tell the police you **DO NOT** wish to speak to them **without a lawyer** present. **If you are not under arrest and you free to leave, you may end the questioning and leave.**



The law protects your home and its contents from unreasonable searches and intrusions. The police cannot search your home without your consent or a search warrant signed by a judge. In some instances they can enter your home without a warrant if the situation meets certain legal requirements. **You have the right to and SHOULD say NO to requests to search or "look around" your home without a search warrant.**



DO NOT sign forms you do not understand or do not want to sign. Signed forms and statements can and will be used against you in any future criminal proceedings.

You have the right to speak to an attorney before signing anything.



Minors are afforded the same rights as adults when dealing with the police. The police must make reasonable efforts to reach a parent after arresting a minor. However, under certain circumstances, they still may interrogate your child if they are unable to reach you.

Tell your child that if they are questioned by the police to demand to speak to a parent and a lawyer before answering questions.



THE LAW OFFICE OF
JULIAN JOHNSON, LLC

USE YOUR RIGHTS

312-487-1711

julianjohnsonlaw.com

