

If You See or Experience Police Brutality

Remain calm.

Write down the details of the incident, badge numbers, and names of witnesses immediately.

Get a medical report and photographs documenting any injuries or property damaged immediately.

KEY POINTS

Don't talk to the police. If arrested, say "I choose to remain silent and I want to talk to my attorney."

Never consent to a search of your person, vehicle, home or property. If the police search you, state loudly, "I do not consent to a search."

Document and report police misconduct.

Important Phone Numbers

Bay Area PoliceWatch

510.428.3939 x299

344 40th Street

Oakland, CA 94609

San Francisco

Public Defender 415.553.1671

San Francisco Jail 415.217.0014

OCC (to file complaint) 415.597.7711

Oakland

Public Defender 510.268.7400

Santa Rita Jail 925.551.6500

PUEBLO 510.452.2010

Berkeley

Public Defender 510.272.6600

Berkeley Jail 510.981.5766

Berkeley CopWatch 510.548.0425

Always Be a Witness

Always be a witness for a friend, relative or stranger.

Stop and watch.

Record the officer's name, badge number, and car number. Write down

the time, the place, who said what, and who did what.

If the officer tells you to leave, say "**I have the right to observe** from a safe distance." Assure them, "I'm not trying to interfere."

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Keep this card handy.
You never know when you'll need it.

from Bay Area PoliceWatch

An Ella Baker Center for Human Rights Initiative

www.ellabakercenter.org

If the Police Stop You...

Stay in control of your emotions and words. Don't physically resist.

Keep your hands visible.

Remain silent. They have guns, pepper spray and billy clubs. Your strongest weapon is your mind.

The less you say, the better.
Silence is not a crime.

Ask, "Am I free to go?" If they keep you, you are being detained.

Ask, "Why are you detaining me?"
To detain you, the police must have concrete reasons to suspect your involvement in a specific crime.

If you're detained, show ID. If you don't, they can hold you for three days to ID you.

or Try to Search You...

Never consent to a search.

Say loud & clear (especially if there are any witnesses present): **"I do not consent to a search."**

Don't resist physically.

Don't open your bag for them. It will count as consent to the search.

Police may 'pat down' your clothing if they suspect weapons or drugs.

or Try to Enter Your Home...

Never consent to a search.

Step outside. Lock the door behind you.

Ask to see a warrant. Make sure it has the right information (e.g., address) and a judge's signature.

They can do only what the warrant allows them to. Warrants often limit the search to one room, one day, etc. Make sure they are complying with the warrant.

or Stop You in Your Car...

Stay calm. Again, you do not have to answer any questions.

When they ask you, show them your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.

Tell the officer, **"I do not consent to a search."**

Don't open your trunk or car door. It will count as consent to a search of you and your property.

If they give you a ticket, sign it. Otherwise you can be arrested. Fight the ticket in court later.

If you're suspected of drunk driving and refuse to take a blood, urine or breath test, your license can be suspended.

If the Police Arrest You...

Do not answer any questions until a lawyer arrives to represent you.

Say only, **"I choose to remain silent and I want to talk to my attorney."**

The police may handcuff, search, photograph and fingerprint you.

Do not talk about your case to anyone except your attorney.