

## 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](http://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.