

Portland National Lawyers Guild (NLG)
Jail Support Hotline: 503-902-5340

Know Your Rights!

- 1. Do Not Talk to Police:** Anything you say to police can be used against you. If a cop tries to talk to you, ask “**Am I free to go?**” and try to walk away. If they won’t let you walk away, it’s safest to say: “**I don’t want to answer any questions. I want to talk to a lawyer.**” Say it loud enough for witnesses to hear.
- 2. If You Are Arrested:** Don’t wait for the cops to read you your rights, don’t explain what happened, and don’t lie. Police are legally allowed to lie, and are trained to be manipulative. **The only thing you should say to them is, “I don’t want to answer any questions. I want to talk to a lawyer.”** The cop should stop questioning you. If they don’t, keep repeating it.
- 3. Do NOT Consent to A Search:** Any time the police try to search you, or your bag, say: “**I do not consent to this search.**” This may not stop a search, but it could get evidence thrown out in court later. Do not physically resist a search, because you could get hurt and charged with assault. Keep saying it, loudly enough for witnesses to hear.
- 4. If You Are Monitoring the Police:** Say, “I am here to observe. I do not intend to interfere.” If they tell you to move away ask, “Where do you want me to stand?” It is lawful to observe the police. Get officer’s names, ID number (aka DPSST#), and details about the incident: what orders names and contact info of any witnesses, and report to NLG Hotline.
- 5. Harm Reduction:** In any police interaction, keep your hands in view, make no sudden movements, and do not reach into your pockets or bag. If you are arrested or searched do not physically resist. Never touch the police or their equipment. →→→

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