



Black is Back

Know Your Rights Card

The police are a military occupation force in the Black community, here's what to do:

If the police interrogate you:

- Cops have to read you your rights before they interrogate you.
- You should ask to speak to a lawyer— it will never help you to talk to cops.
- If you decide to talk to the cops anyway, you can decide to stop talking at **any** time and ask for a lawyer—the cops then **must** stop interrogating you

If you are in a car:

- If cops legally stop you and see something illegal in “plain view,” they can search your car without a warrant.
- If cops legally stop you they can frisk the driver and search the passenger compartment—they **cannot** search your trunk. Even if they arrest you—they **cannot** search your trunk on the scene. **But** if cops have probable cause that something in your trunk contains illegal contraband **or** the car is impounded, cops can search the **entire** car (including the trunk).
- **Never** consent to a search of you car—even if you have nothing illegal.

If you are stopped by the police :

- Ask if you are free to go, if the answer is yes, leave.
- Try to remember the badge number, name and physical description of the cop(s) who stopped you.
- Say as little as possible, and only answer their basic questions (name, address, etc.). Talking to police will **never** help you.
- They can only **legally** search you if they think you are armed and dangerous.
- If the police search you: They can only **legally** search you for weapons, **not** for drugs.
- Say loudly, “I do not consent to this search” so that others can hear you.
- Cops may search you illegally, but your lawyer might be able to get the evidence thrown out if the search was illegal.

If the police arrest you:

- Don't say ANYTHING—just ask for a lawyer! Don't talk to the police, speak on videotape, talk to a District Attorney, or other inmates about anything that has to do with the crime you have been arrested for.
- You will be handcuffed, searched, photographed and fingerprinted
- Do not sign anything!!! Cops are trained to trick you.

Contact: blackisbackcoalition.org (314)312-2805