

Being stopped or questioned by the police can be a stressful experience.

KIDS HAVE RIGHTS

Know How To Use Them



If you are stopped by the police, ask

Am I free to leave?

If you are, do not say anything else and leave the area immediately.

If you are not free to leave, you have certain rights:

- You have the right to remain silent and not answer any questions (except to provide your name). Tell the police *"I wish to remain silent."*
- You have the right to have a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, the state must provide you a lawyer for free. Tell the police *"I want a lawyer."*
- DO NOT say anything, sign anything, or give the police permission to search anywhere or search anything without having a lawyer there to help you.

If you are under 18 AND the police say you're not free to leave AND ask you questions:

- Tell the police your name and your age.
- Say you want your parent/guardian to be contacted immediately and that Virginia law requires police to contact them before talking with you.
- Share your parent/guardian's phone number, address, or email address.
- Say *"I want to speak with a lawyer. I will not speak with you without a lawyer."*
- Try not to answer any other questions.
- If the police cannot find your parent/guardian, ask them to call another adult you trust. And again, say *"I want to speak with a lawyer and won't answer any more questions without a lawyer."*

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU:

- DO NOT talk to police until you have met with your parent/guardian AND a lawyer.
- DO NOT sign any papers before talking with a lawyer.
- DO NOT give the police permission to search anything.
- DO NOT give the police your password/passcode to your phone, any other electronic device, or accounts like email and social media.
- If the police search you or your property anyway, DO NOT SAY ANYTHING.
- DO NOT talk with your parent/guardian about what happened until you have talked with a lawyer.
- DO NOT talk with anyone, including your parent/guardian, about what happened when you are in a place where the police may be listening.
- DO NOT talk about your or your family's immigration status.

(See reverse side for more)

THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS

Police can talk with you without a parent/guardian if:

- Police think your parent/guardian committed a crime with you.
- Police think your parent/guardian hurt you or committed a crime against you.
- Police tried their best to contact your parent/guardian and didn't find them.
- Police called your parent/guardian, but they refuse to talk with you.
- Police believe they need to talk with you right now to prevent people or property from getting badly hurt or destroyed.

In these cases, you still have the right to have a lawyer to be with you.

Tell the police "I want a lawyer" and don't answer any more questions any time you are being questioned.

KNOW YOUR CHILD'S RIGHTS

If you are a parent/guardian of a minor who the police are questioning:

- **DO NOT** ask your child about what happened unless they have talked to a lawyer **AND** you both are in a private place where the police cannot hear.
- Police cannot talk to your child until they try to contact you and let you speak with your child.
- The police may contact you in person, by phone, by email, by video conference, or other means.
- If you are contacted, tell the police your child wants a lawyer and tell your child:
 - To say "I want to speak with a lawyer. I have nothing else to say."
 - To not answer any questions from the police.
 - To not sign any papers before talking with a lawyer.
 - To not talk about their or your family's immigration status.



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