Know Your Rights Presentation

Created by Officer Jackson from the Rochester Police Department

You have the right to remain silent

- Supported by the 5th amendment of the constitution
- Protects you from self-incrimination.
- DOES NOT mean you can decline to identify yourself
 - Your identity is not incriminating.
 - An officer has the legal authority to identify you if they have reasonable suspicion that you have been involved in the commission of a crime.

Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.

- One of the primary functions of police is to identify criminal activity.
- The officer talking to you is trying to determine if a crime has been committed.
- The things you say to that officer will become part of any criminal case that results from the interaction.

You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him present with you while you are being questioned.

Supported by the 6th amendment of the constitution.

 States that it is your right to have legal representation during police questioning.

If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before any questioning if you wish.

- Your right to legal representation is not dependent on wealth.
- Public defenders will provide you with a zealous defense at no cost to you.

You can decide at any time to exercise these rights and not answer any questions or make any statements

• Even if you begin to answer questions, you may choose to stop at any time.

When are these read?

- An officer is required to advise you of these rights if you are in custody AND are under interrogation.
 - Excited utterance
 - Consensual contact
- YOU ALWAYS HAVE THESE RIGHTS, even if an officer has not read them to you.

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If you are arrested or detained:

- Comply with officers.
 - Escalating the situation unnecessarily creates a safety risk for everyone involved.
 - Improper conduct on the part of officers can be used by your lawyer in your defense.
 - "Fruit of the poisonous tree".
 - The place to fight is in the courtroom, not on the street.

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It is okay to ask questions

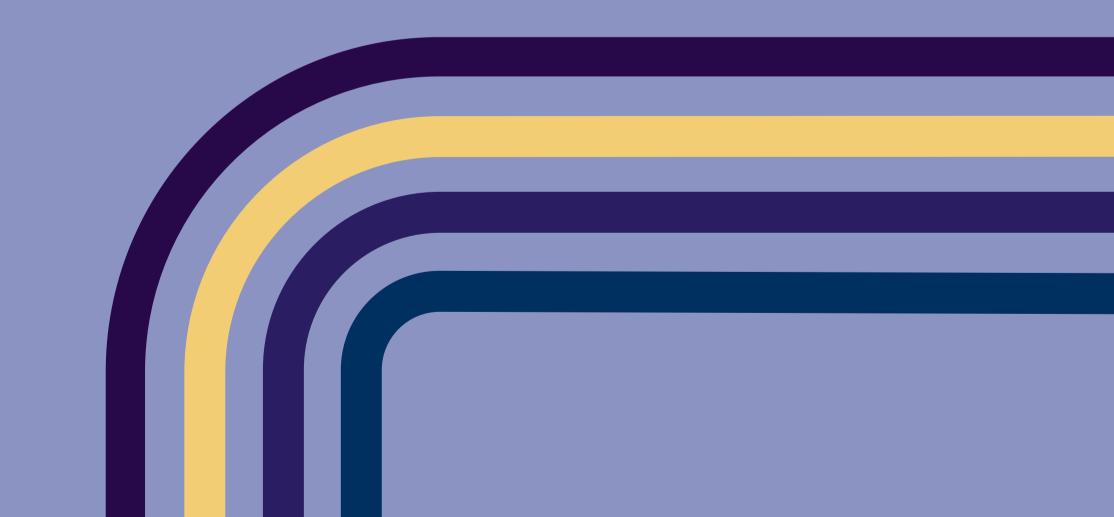
- Am I free to leave?
- Are you asking for my ID or is this a lawful order?
- What is your legal justification?

What to do when you see the lights

- Don't panic.
- Use your blinker to signal your intent to pull over.
- Pull to the RIGHT side of the road when it is safe to do so.
- Put the car in park.

What will I need?

- VALID driver's license.
- CURRENT proof of insurance.



Do I need to give my license?

- Yes.
- MN statute requires you to have you DL on you when you are driving.
- Reasonable articulable suspicion is the threshold for traffic stops AND compelled identification.
- Refusal to identify yourself is likely to lead to your arrest.

Extra things you can do

- Roll all windows down.
- Turn on the interior lights.
- Turn off the engine.
- Keep your license and insurance easily accessible.
- Inform the officer before opening any compartments or reaching into your pockets.
- Keep your hands visible to the officer.
 - All of these communicate to the officer that you do not pose a threat.

Car Accidents

What do I do if I am involved in an accident?

- Do not leave the scene of the accident until the issue has been resolved.
- If someone is injured, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY
- Once you have verified that no one is hurt, remove the vehicles from the lane of traffic if possible.
- Exchange information with the other driver.
- Call non-emergency police number for any assistance you need
 - (507) 328-6800

Car Accidents

What information do I need from the other driver?

- Name
- Phone number
- Insurance information (company and policy number)
- Vehicle information (license plate, year, make, model, color)

Car Accidents

Police do NOT determine fault for an accident

 We can write tickets for traffic violations that contributed to the crash, but it is the insurance companies who determine who pays for what.

Call your insurance agent for questions about the process

to fix your vehicle.