



KNOW

YOUR

RIGHTS!

WE WANT TO CHANGE THE WAY POLICE OFFICERS
AND
NEW YORKERS GET ALONG.

WE HAVE THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN POLICE OFFICERS AND NEW YORKERS COME
INTO CONTACT IN PUBLIC PLACES. WE THINK IT
WOULD HELP IF PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD WHAT
POLICE OFFICERS ARE ALLOWED TO DO AND HOW
THEY CAN RESPOND.

THAT'S WHY WE MADE THIS BROCHURE.

PS 261 CLASS 5-409



SCENES...

These scenes are possible situations any teen might end up facing. They are here to help you think about making the best choices possible when interacting with police. Also to help you understand the difference between a stop, frisk and search.

SCENE 1: TWO KIDS ARE WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL AND THEY STOP AT A BODEGA FOR A SNACK. TWO POLICE OFFICERS ARE STANDING OUTSIDE THE BODEGA. THE KIDS WALK OUT OF THE STORE AND ONE OF THE POLICE OFFICER SAYS, "WHAT ARE YOU TWO UP TO?"

SCENE 2: TWO KIDS ARE WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL AND THEY STOP AT A BODEGA FOR A SNACK. TWO POLICE OFFICERS ARE STANDING OUTSIDE OF THE BODEGA. THE TWO KIDS COME RUNNING OUT OF THE STORE, LAUGHING, AND YELLING. ONE OF THE KIDS GRABS A BOTTLE OF JUICE FROM THE OTHER KID AND SAYS, "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!" ONE OF THE OFFICERS SAYS, "WHAT ARE YOU TWO UP TO?"

SCENE 3: TWO KIDS ARE WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL AND THEY STOP AT A BODEGA FOR A SNACK. TWO POLICE OFFICERS ARE STANDING OUTSIDE OF THE BODEGA. THE TWO KIDS COME RUNNING OUT OF THE STORE, LAUGHING, AND YELLING. ONE OF THE KIDS GRABS A BOTTLE OF JUICE FROM THE OTHER KID AND SAYS, "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!" ONE OF THE OFFICERS SAYS, "DID YOU PAY FOR THAT JUICE?" THE KIDS GET ANGRY AND YELL AT THE OFFICERS, "WHAT? WE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING! WE DON'T STEAL!" AFTER THE KIDS BECOME ANGRY, THE OFFICERS PAT THEM DOWN.

SCENE 4: TWO KIDS ARE WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL AND THEY STOP AT A BODEGA FOR A SNACK. TWO POLICE OFFICERS ARE STANDING OUTSIDE OF THE BODEGA. THE TWO KIDS COME RUNNING OUT OF THE STORE, LAUGHING, AND YELLING. ONE OF THE KIDS GRABS A BOTTLE OF JUICE FROM THE OTHER KID AND SAYS, "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!" ONE OF THE OFFICERS SAYS, "DID YOU PAY FOR THAT JUICE?" THE KIDS GET ANGRY AND YELL AT THE OFFICERS, "WHAT? WE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING! WE DON'T STEAL!" AFTER THE KIDS BECOME ANGRY, THE OFFICERS PAT THEM DOWN. ONE OF THE OFFICERS THINKS THAT HE FEELS A KNIFE IN THE COAT POCKET OF ONE OF THE KIDS. HE SEARCHES INSIDE THE POCKET OF THE COAT. HE FINDS A SWISS ARMY KNIFE.

What are your rights before a stop?

What is the officer allowed to do?

The officer can ask you questions even if he or she does not have any reason to think you are doing anything wrong.

But the officer cannot make you stay and answer questions unless he or she has a good reason to suspect that you have done something illegal or are about to do something illegal.

What can you do or say?

You can ask, “Am I free to go?”

If the officer says “yes” then calmly walk away.

If the officer says “no” then you are being officially stopped.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS DURING A STOP?

What is a stop?

A police officer can briefly stop you on the street and ask you questions if the officer has a good reason to believe that you have committed a crime or you are about to commit a crime.

What is the officer allowed to do?

The officer can make you stay and can ask you questions. The officer does not have to tell you why you are being stopped.

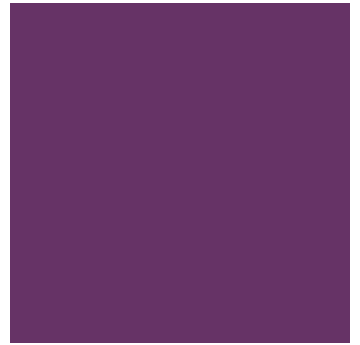
What can you do and what can't you do?

You may not walk away.

You may ask why you are being stopped but the officer does not have to tell you.

You don't have to answer questions.

You don't have to empty your pockets.



WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS DURING A FRISK?

What is a frisk?

A frisk is when an officer pats down the outside of your clothing or bag to see if you have a weapon.

An officer can frisk you **ONLY** when he or she has a good reason to believe that you have a weapon and that you are dangerous.

What is the officer allowed to do?

The officer can pat the outside of your coat and your bag but the officer cannot reach inside your pockets or your bag. The officer also cannot ask you to empty your pockets.

What can you do or say?

You do not have to allow a frisk.

You can say calmly, "I do not consent to this search."

But **DO NOT** ever try to physically resist a search.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

empower yourself

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS DURING A SEARCH?

What is a search?

A search is when an officer goes into your pockets or your bag. A search is also when an officer opens any closed container you are holding, searches inside your clothing, takes off your hat, or removes your shoes.

What is the officer allowed to do?

A search is very serious. An officer can only search you when one of the following things is true:

1. The officer needs a very strong reason that he or she will find evidence that you have done something illegal or that you have a weapon or that you are hiding something illegal. It needs to be more than an assumption!
2. You give permission for a search.
3. The officer has a warrant. This means that a judge has given the police department permission to search you.
4. Or you have been arrested.

What can you do?

You can say, "I do not consent to this search."

You do not have to empty your pockets or open your purse or your backpack.

Interactions with police officers can become very tense very quickly.

Here are TIPS for how to handle interactions in public spaces and how to stay safe



1. **ALWAYS** know your rights and ask questions if you feel like your rights are being violated. Show the police officer that you are a safe person. For example, show the officer your hands calmly.
2. It is **ALWAYS** very important to be calm and respectful. Sudden movements or an angry reaction can cause the officer to be more suspicious.
3. **ALWAYS** politely listen to what the police officer says.
4. **ALWAYS** stay calm when an officer is asking you questions. It will make the officer think you are a safe or kind person. If you shout at the officer or use bad language, it will make the officer think you are being too defensive.
5. **NEVER** physically resist the officer.
6. **NEVER** walk or run away from the officer if he or she is talking to you. It will make the officer feel like you have done something wrong.