

### WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AT A PROTEST?



- Your rights at a protest are strongest in *public spaces*like streets, sidewalks, and parks. You can also protest
  in front of government buildings as long as you're not
  blocking access or interfering with their function. *Private property owners* set their own rules for speech on their
  property. The government *cannot* restrict speech on
  private property with the owner's consent.
- *Counter-protesters* have free speech rights too, and police must treat both sides equally. They can separate opposing groups but must allow them to remain within sight and sound of each other.
- You *don't need a permit* to protest on sidewalks or streets unless you're blocking traffic. If you don't have a permit, police can ask you to move for public safety or to allow traffic to pass.

### WHAT HAPPENS POLICE USSUE AN ORDER TO DISPERSE THE PROTEST

Police can only issue a *dispersal order* as a last resort if there is an *immediate threat* to public safety, such as a riot, disorder, or traffic obstruction.

If police order a protest to disperse, they must:



Give clear notice explaining the order, how much time protesters have to leave, and the consequences of staying.



Provide a safe exit route that is unobstructed.



Allow reasonable time for people to comply before making arrests.

Protesters should listen carefully to dispersal orders to avoid unnecessary legal trouble.

### I BELIEVE MY RICHTS WERE VIOLATED WHILI PROTESTING, BUT I WAS NOT ARRESTED, OR THE CHARGES IIIFRE

If you believe police violated your *First Amendment rights* while protesting, you can request legal assistance from the *ACLU of Indiana*.

You can file a complaint online, email intake@aclu-in.org,



or mail a request to:
ACLU of Indiana
1031 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202



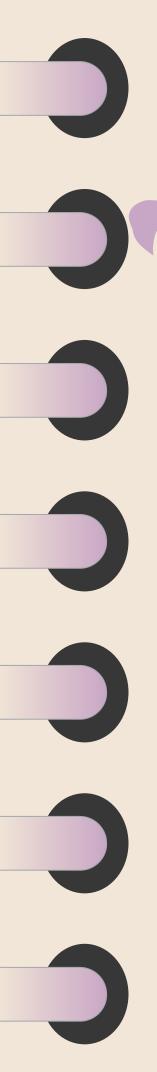
# I BELIEVE I WAS UNLAWFULLY ARRESTED & CHARGED FOR PROTESTING

If you were *unlawfully arrested and charged* for protesting, you will need to seek relief through a criminal court. You should contact a criminal defense attorney for legal assistance.

Indiana Public Defender Council - www.in.gov/ipdc

Indiana State Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: www.inbar.org Indiana Legal Services (for low-income individuals): www.indianalegalservices. org
National Lawyers Guild (Legal Support for Protesters): www.nig.org

If you need help finding an attorney, consider searching local bar associations or legal aid organizations in your area.



### 1. Document Everything:

Take pictures and record videos of the protest, interactions with police, and any incidents.

### 2. Record Details:

If your rights are violated, write down everything you remember as soon as possible, including:

- Officers badge numbers
- Patrol car numbers
- Police department or agency they work for

### 3. Collect Witness Info:

Get names and contact information from anyone who saw the incident.

### 4. Photograph Injuries:

If you are harmed, take *clear photos* of any injuries.

### 5. File a Complaint:

Submit a *written complaint* with the police department's *internal affairs division* or a *civilian complaint board* for review.

By doing this, you create a **strong record** of potential misconduct that can be used for legal action if needed.

# HOW CAN I BE MY OWN LEGAL OBSERVER?



# WHAT IF I SEE ANOTHER PROTESTOR'S RIGHTS BEING VIOLATED?



### 1. Document the incident:

Write down details like officer badge numbers, patrol car numbers, and the police agency involved.

### 2. Take photos or videos:

If possible, record what happened while staying safe.

### 3. Get witness contact info:

Help them connect with others who saw the incident.

### 4. Photograph injuries:

If they were harmed, suggest they take clear pictures.

### 5. File a complaint:

Encourage them to report the incident to *internal affairs* or a *civilian complaint board*.

### 6. Contact the ACLU of Indiana:

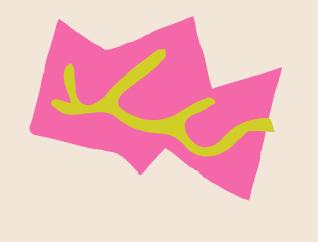
They can file a legal request online, via email at *intake@aclu-in.org*, or by mail:

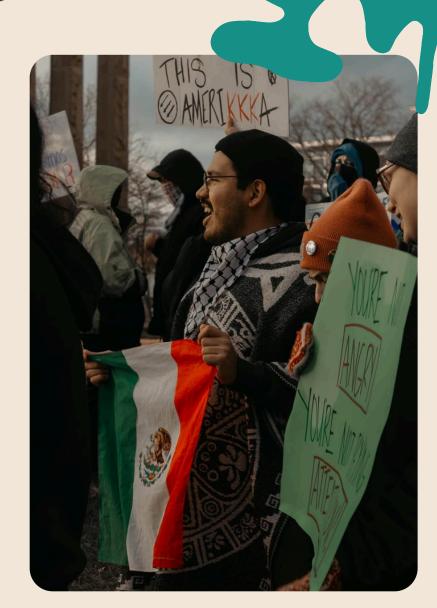
**ACLU** of Indiana

1031 East Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Standing together and documenting police misconduct helps hold authorities accountable.





# CAN I TAKE PICTURES OR SHOOT VIDEO AT A PROTEST?





Yes! If you are in a public space, you have the right to photograph or record anything in plain view, including:

- Police officers
- Federal buildings
- Other protesters

### **Exceptions & Limitations:**

- On *private property*, the owner can set rules about photography.
- Police cannot confiscate, view, or delete your footage without a warrant.
- Officers *can* tell you to stop if your recording *actively interferes* with law enforcement operations.

**Tip:** If confronted, calmly state your rights and continue recording if it's safe to do so.



### 1. Stay Calm:

Never physically resist an officer.

### 2. Know Your Rights:

Police *cannot detain you* without *reasonable suspicion* that you are committing or about to commit a crime.

### 3. Ask If You're Free to Go:

If the officer says yes, calmly walk away.

### 4. If Detained, Ask Why:

Politely ask what crime you are suspected of committing.

### 5. Assert Your Rights:

Remind the officer that *taking photos is protected* by the First Amendment and does not justify detainment.

Stay respectful but firm. Knowing your rights can help prevent unnecessary escalation.

## WHAT DO I DO IF I AM STOPPED OR NETHINEU FUK PHILLIH: KHPHS

### KNOW YOUR PROTESTING RIGHTS

The Hoosier Human Rights Initiative (HHRI) is committed to defending civil liberties and empowering individuals to stand up for their rights. Whether you're organizing, attending, or documenting a protest, knowing your legal protections is crucial in ensuring your voice is heard while staying safe. HHRI stands in solidarity with all who advocate for justice, equality, and human rights in Indiana.

This guide is based on information provided by the ACLU of Indiana, a leading organization in protecting civil rights and defending First Amendment freedoms. For more details, legal assistance, or to report a rights violation, visit:

- Email: intake@aclu-in.org
- Address: ACLU of Indiana, 1031 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202
- Website: www.aclu-in.org

Stay informed, stay safe, and keep fighting for justice. Your rights matter!

### **Reach Out & Stay Connected!**





https://hoosierhumanrightsinitiative.org/ HoosierHumanRightsInitiative



hoosierhumanrightsinitiative@gmail.com



Hoosier Human Rights Initiative





hoosierhumanrightsinit







