

Know Your Rights: When Being Questioned by the Police in New Mexico



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1. Right to Remain Silent

You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer any questions. If you wish to exercise this right, you should say so out loud.

2. Right to Refuse Searches

You have the right to refuse consent to a search of yourself, your car, or your home. If you do not consent to a search, say so out loud.

3. Right to an Attorney

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If you are arrested or taken into custody, you have the right to speak to an attorney. You can request an attorney at any time during questioning.

4. Right to Know the Reason for Detention

If you are stopped or detained, you have the right to ask the officer why. Politely ask: "Am I free to go?" If the officer says no, you have the right to know why you are being detained.

5. Right to Know the Charges

If you are arrested, you have the right to know the charges against you. The police must inform you of the charges.

6. What to Do If You Are Arrested

If you are arrested, stay calm and do not resist. State clearly that you wish to remain silent and ask for an attorney immediately.

7. Documenting the Encounter

Try to remember the details of the encounter, including the officers' badge numbers, patrol car numbers, and any other details. If possible, write down everything you remember as soon as possible.

8. Reporting Misconduct

If you believe your rights have been violated, you have the right to file a complaint with the police

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department's internal affairs division or a civilian oversight board.

Conclusion

Knowing your rights can help protect you in interactions with law enforcement. Always remain respectful and calm, and assert your rights clearly and confidently.