

## How to prepare for a protest

Wear **protective clothing** like a face mask, shatterproof goggles, earplugs, and long sleeves and pants. **Avoid surveillance** technology by switching your phone to airplane mode, turning off Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, and disabling location services in your apps.

You have the right to photograph and video record police from a safe distance. **Turn off** face and fingerprint identification and protect your phone with a strong passcode. Police need a **warrant** to search your phone. **Do not** unlock it or consent to a search.

Remain aware of exit routes. If you ever feel unsafe or uncertain, leaving the scene is a good option.

Prepare for possible arrest by memorizing the **phone numbers** of your family and your lawyer. Make emergency plans if you have children or take medication.

## File a complaint

If you believe your rights have **been violated**, contact a lawyer and file a complaint immediately. **Scan the QR code** to learn more:

### Strengthen your case

Write down **everything** you can remember **ASAP** including: names, badge or car numbers, place, time, and any witnesses.

If you are **injured**, seek medical attention immediately and take photographs of your injuries.



[ACLU-WI.org/Know-Your-Rights](https://www.ACLU-WI.org/Know-Your-Rights)

# ACLU

Wisconsin

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Protest Rights

**2023**  
**Pocket Guide**

**This information is NOT intended as legal advice – laws can change.**

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# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN CASE...

## ...you are stopped by police

**Stay calm.** Keep your hands where the police can see them. **Do not** resist and avoid making sudden movements. **Do not** get into an argument with an officer of the law. **Do not** threaten the police that you are going to file a complaint. **Never** touch a police officer.

**Ask if you are free to go.** If the answer is yes, walk away calmly.

You have the right to remain silent. You **do not** have to answer questions. **Say: "I do not want to talk."**

If you are subject to a "frisk" or pat down search, **do not** resist. Calmly say: **"Officer, I do not consent to searches."** Police may pat you down if they suspect a weapon.

## ...you are ordered to disperse

Your rights are strongest in what are known as **"traditional public forums"** such as streets, sidewalks, and parks. Certain types of events may require **permits**, including any that require blocking traffic; a large rally requiring the use of sound amplifying devices; or a rally over a certain size at most parks or plazas.

If officers issue a dispersal order, they must provide a reasonable opportunity to comply. Individuals must receive clear and detailed notice of the order, how much time they have to disperse, the consequences of failing to disperse, and what clear exit route they can follow, before they may be arrested or charged with any crime.

## ...you are placed under arrest

### STEP 1 Remain silent

You have the right to remain silent and talk to a lawyer before you talk to the police. Only give your name and address. **Nothing else.** Do **not** give explanations, excuses, or stories. You will be allowed to fight your case later in court with a lawyer's assistance.

### STEP 2 Ask for a lawyer

Ask for a lawyer **immediately.** If you cannot afford one, a free defense attorney can be provided for you.

### STEP 3 Make a phone call

Within a reasonable amount of time, you have the right to make a phone call. Police cannot listen to a call you make to a lawyer, but they **can**, and often will, listen to the calls you make to others.