

Know Your Rights: Tips for Dealing With The Police

@socialissuescommission @queens_ams

- Do not give them permission to enter your home, if they come to your door step outside to talk to them and close your door.
- Do not give them permission to search you or your belongings (they are allowed to anyway if you are under arrest or they have reasonable grounds to believe you are committing a crime).
- If you are being questioned or detained, you have the right to ask "Am I being detained or arrested?", "Why am I being detained?" and "Do I have the right to go?"

If you are not being
detained or arrested



You **cannot** be held against your will and can ask if you are free to go.

If you are being
detained



They must inform you why and give you the opportunity to speak to a lawyer.

WHAT ARE THE POLICE ALLOWED TO DO?

If you are being detained:

- Police can pat you down with their hands to ensure you aren't carrying any threatening weapons. This is called a protective pat-down search
- They aren't allowed to empty your pockets, or contents of your bag.

If you are being arrested:

- Depending on the situation, they may be able to search you, anything you're carrying, and your car if that's where you were arrested.



Legal Resources

You have legal resources available to you if needed. We have compiled a number of them, but also recommend doing your own research to discover if there are other accessible resources which are more suitable for your personal needs.

Queen's Legal Aid

Queen's Legal Aid provides a variety of free legal services to students.

You can call 613-533-6890 or go to <https://queenslawclinics.ca/queens-legal-aid>

The Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OPIRD)

You can submit a complaint against a police officer through an easy online submission
Go to opird.on.ca to file a complaint or learn more

Kingston Police

You can also file a complaint through the Professional Standards Unit of the Kingston Police by calling 613-549-4660.

In-Person Complaints

The chief of police has assigned an officer at every police station in Ontario to handle minor, informal complaints, known as Local Resolution. This officer will work with you to handle your complaint - while it won't be classified as "official", they are still required to follow certain rules and may escalate it to a formal complaint if needed.

