

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

When Questioned By the Police or the FBI



The New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NY) supports the efforts of law enforcement to preserve the peace, however we also value the preservation of the rights and liberties ensured in the United States Constitution. This is a guide outlining your rights and duties as a citizen when contacted by federal and local law enforcement officers.

YOUR RIGHTS:

1. You have the right to remain silent. Even if you think you have nothing to hide, we advise you to seek the advice of an attorney before answering questions from law enforcement officers.
 - *MAKE THIS DEMAND LOUD AND CLEAR*
2. You have the right to refuse consent to a search without a warrant. This includes your home, your place of business, your car, and your body.
 - *MAKE THIS DEMAND LOUD AND CLEAR*
3. If you are not under arrest, you have the right to calmly leave, or request an officer to leave your property.
 - *MAKE THIS REQUEST LOUD AND CLEAR*
4. If you are under arrest, express your desire to speak to an attorney before answering any questions.
 - *MAKE THIS REQUEST LOUD AND CLEAR*



*****CAIR-NY recommends you never speak to a federal or local law enforcement agent about an investigation without an attorney present. Call our office to arrange for an attorney to join you at no cost.*****



TIPS:

1. Stay calm, polite, and respectful at all times. Fighting with law enforcement will never lead to a satisfactory conclusion.
2. Do not attempt to interfere with the officer's work. You can be arrested for interfering with an officer's investigation.
3. If you chose to speak and answer questions (note rights listed above), you must never lie or provide false information.
 - You can be prosecuted for lying to a law enforcement officer.
4. Ask the officer or agent for identification, and record his/her name, badge number, and contact information. Ask for a business card.
5. After an encounter, record all the information you can remember on paper and report it to your local CAIR office immediately.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

*When Questioned By Police,
Immigration, or the FBI.*



WHY SHOULD YOU BE PREPARED BEFORE SPEAKING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT?

Law enforcement will tell you that they simply want to ask questions about other people when in fact you are the target of an investigation.

It was discovered that law enforcement has used voluntary interviews and 'outreach' to gather personal & private information about members of the Muslim community.

Law enforcement has used information obtained about American-Muslims, such as immigration issues or IRS concerns, to pressure individuals to serve as informants and spies.



In 2011, CAIR filed a lawsuit against the FBI after discovering that informants infiltrated Muslim places of worship, businesses, and homes to unconstitutionally obtain private information.



In 2011, CAIR helped organize protests after discovering the NYPD used community outreach and mapping as a cover to illegally monitor the activities of innocent Muslims.

WHY YOU SHOULD CALL AN ATTORNEY IF CONTACTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT?

It is your constitutional right, and a bedrock of American civil liberties, to have an attorney present when being investigated or talked to by law enforcement.

Anything you say to law enforcement can and will be used against you (what you say to a lawyer is confidential). Refusing to answer questions CANNOT be used against you.

An attorney can protect your legal rights and identify questions you should and should not answer. An attorney can also discover the true reason you are targeted by law enforcement.

CAIR-NY is a local chapter of the nations largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, & build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

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