

QUICK REFERENCE: CONTACTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

This card available in alternative formats and languages upon request

Do

- Be polite and stay calm even if you disagree
- Ask for an interpreter if you need one
- Keep your hands where the police can see them at all times
- Ask why you are being stopped - you do not have to admit to anything
- Ask for officer's name and business card
- Take photographs of any injuries or damages
- Ask for medical attention immediately if you are hurt
- You do not have to answer questions the police ask you, but if you do, anything you say or do may be used against you
- You do not have to give consent to a search without a warrant
- You have the right to call an attorney if you are arrested or in police custody
- If you feel you have been injured, ask for a police supervisor

Do Not

- Do not run from or physically resist an officer
- Do not touch or make an attempt to touch an officer
- Do not resist arrest even if you believe you are innocent
- Do not interfere with the police – you can be arrested for that
- Do not expect the police to tell you your rights

If you believe the police have treated you incorrectly or unfairly you may file a complaint. To file a complaint, write a letter or go to the Fargo Police Department to make a written statement at: Police Headquarters, 222 4th Street North, Fargo, ND 58102.

The information on this card is not meant to cover every situation. If you have questions concerning the information on this card, or about other civil rights issues, you can contact the Fargo Human Relations Commission at 701-241-1474 or planning@cityoffargo.com.

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In Your Car

- Remain in vehicle, unless asked to get out
- When stopped, turn off your car, roll your window down, and put your hands on the steering wheel
- Ask why you are being stopped
- Upon request, show the officer your driver's license, registration and proof of insurance. In certain cases your car can be searched without a warrant as long as the police have probable cause. To protect yourself later, you may tell the police that you do not consent to have your car searched. It is not lawful for police to arrest you simply for refusing to consent to a search.
- If you are stopped for drunk driving and you refuse to take a breath, urine, or blood test, your license may be suspended
- If you are given a ticket, accept it. Signing the citation does not mean that you agree with it. You may dispute it later in court.

At Your Home

- Be polite and stay calm
- You may talk to the officer outside of your home, you do not have to let them in
- Ask the reason for the visit
- You do not have to allow the police to search your home without a warrant
- Ask to see a search warrant if the police ask to search your home
- You do not have to answer questions the police ask you, but if you do, remember that anything you say or do may be used against you

On the Street

- Be polite and stay calm
- An officer has the right to pat you down if they suspect that you are carrying a weapon
- Ask why you are being stopped - you do not have to admit to anything
- The police may search you and the area close by if you are arrested