

Important Legal Information

- **You do not have to give your name, address, or date of birth to the police.**
- The only times you are likely to have to give your name and address is when you are driving (you must give your date of birth as well); if you are being given a fixed penalty notice (like a fine); if you are being given a summons for court; or you are suspected of anti-social behaviour. If they say that they suspect you of this, **ask** what anti-social behaviour they believe you have committed. **Write down what they say.**
- You do not have to carry your passport or immigration documents around with you when you are in the UK. Police and immigration officers can only ask you for your documents if they have reason to believe you have committed an immigration offence. **They cannot ask you for ID just because of the colour of your skin, because you look foreign, or because you speak another language.** However, they can use various reasons to say that you have committed an immigration offence, including the fact that you have lots of money on you.
- If you see the police being violent or acting in any other way you think is not legal, write down their numbers (on their shoulders), or the names of senior officers (written on their chests).

Being stopped & searched

You never have to answer any questions during a stop and search. The police are meant to tell you what search power they are using – if not, ask them! They are not normally allowed to go through your mobile phone, read your personal papers or bank cards, so challenge them if they try to read your personal information and say its not lawful. If they are searching you under the Terrorism Act however, they are allowed to search through private papers.

If you are arrested call:

Solicitors: Hodge Jones & Allen: 07659 111 192 or Bindmans: 020 7833 4433. No Borders arrest support: 07831341859

If you are arrested

- **Don't answer any police questions. Answer 'no comment' if you are interviewed.**
- Stay calm. The police will try to get you to talk either by being threatening, by lying, or by trying to make you think you have committed an offence. They may also try to be friendly with you to get you to talk.
- You will have your DNA, fingerprints and photograph taken. If you do not let the police do this, they will take it by force.
- You do not have to give your name and address to the police. However, if you do not give them this, it will probably mean that they keep you there longer, or you will have to stay at the police station until you go to court (if they do decide to prosecute you).
- At the police station, you can:
 - Make one phone call (you can call the arrest support number if you want)
 - Have access to a translator if English is not your first language
 - Have free legal advice. It is possible that you may only be able to speak to an adviser over the phone and have to pay to speak to a different one. In most cases however, you will be able to call a lawyer of your choice. Do not accept a 'duty solicitor' (a solicitor provided at the police station). Instead, call one of the solicitors on this card.
 - Have vegan or halal food if you ask for it
- People are often released 3-12 hours after an arrest. It is possible (in non-terrorism cases) to be held for a maximum of 96 hours with an order from the court, but this is not common.
- If you, a friend or legal observer calls No Borders arrest support, we will try and get somebody to meet you when you have been released from the police station.
- You may be either: released on bail with a date to return or to appear in court; cautioned (if you accept a caution it will still show on your criminal record but you will not have to pay a fine or go to prison); released with no further action (which means they have no evidence to charge you); or detained before a court appearance, often the next day.