

A GUIDE TO POLICE ENCOUNTERS

RULE #1

Don't get shot!

- Police are most often nervous about suspects possessing guns. Don't do anything that will make them feel like you may be armed.
- Don't run. Stay as calm as you can manage.
- Keep your hands where the police can see them.

RULE #2

Don't get arrested

- Never carry a gun in New York unless you have a license.
- Check your belongings before leaving your home and make sure there's nothing in there that could get you arrested.
- If you carry a knife, even if only for self-defense, it could lead to an arrest.

RULE #3

(if you're getting arrested)

Don't make it any worse

- Just say "I want a lawyer." If you're under 18, also ask for your parent or guardian to be present during questioning.
- Don't lie to the police or provide a fake name. You can be charged for a crime.
- Police are allowed to search you after arrest.

A FEW MORE TIPS:

- NYPD officers must provide a business card with their name, number and precinct if they stop you and do not arrest or give you a summons.
- If NYPD has no legal justification for a search, they must ask for your consent to search your person, home or car. They must record your response and if it's recorded on a body cam you can find the footage here: <http://bit.ly/BWCfoil>
- You are allowed to record police activity as long as you don't interfere with their work. Record or write down anything you can remember: Badge numbers, squad car numbers, potential witnesses and any injuries you may have suffered.
- To make a complaint, call and file a complaint with NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau (212) 741-8401 or Civil Complaint Review Board – 1-800-341-2272 or file a complaint online: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ccrb/complaints/file-online.page>

If you know someone under 18 who has been arrested, is wanted by the police, or has a summons to criminal or family court then please call or email Sandeep Kandhari at SKandhari@cfny.org or (646) 300-1058.