

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS PROTESTING

The right to protest is a fundamental human right guaranteed by the First Amendment.

- You don't need a permit to protest in response to breaking news.
- The right to protest includes public areas like sidewalks, parks, and streets, it does not include private property.
- If you don't have a permit police officers can ask you to move to the side of a street or sidewalk to let others pass or for safety reasons.
- When in any public space, you have the right to photograph anything in plain view, including police.
- If officers issue a dispersal order, they must provide a reasonable opportunity to comply, including sufficient time and a clear, unobstructed exit path.

## IF STOPPED BY POLICE

- Ask if you're free to go. If they say yes, calmly walk away.
- If you get arrested don't say anything. Ask for a lawyer immediately. Don't sign, say or agree to anything without a lawyer present.
- You never have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings. If you do explicitly consent, it can affect you later in court.
- You have the right to make 3 free phone calls. The police should not listen if you call a lawyer. If you call anyone else they are likely to listen.

**First Defense Legal Aid: 1-800-529-7374**

**ACLU Montana**

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS PROTESTING

**Know Your Rights Protesting:**  
[www.aclumontana.org/know-your-rights/protests](http://www.aclumontana.org/know-your-rights/protests)

**Legal Help**  
[action.aclu.org/legal-intake/mt-legal-intake](http://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/mt-legal-intake)

**PROTEST TIPS**

- Write important phone numbers on your body.
- Identify an emergency contact and protest buddy.
- Turn your phone on airplane mode when not in use.
- Disable your phone's Face or Touch ID and use a passcode.
- Be mindful of posting photos and videos of other protesters.

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- Demand your right to a local phone call. If you call a lawyer, the police are not allowed to listen. If you call anyone else they are likely to listen.

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**Know Your Rights Planning a Protest:**  
[www.aclu-il.org/PlanProtests](http://www.aclu-il.org/PlanProtests)

**Legal Help For Protesters:**  
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Step #1:  
**Cut out card**

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Step #2:  
**Fold card in half**

Step #3:  
**Fold lower third of the card up**

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Step #4:  
**Fold top third of the card down**

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS PROTESTING**  
**ACLU Illinois**