

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH NSW POLICE

A guide for interacting with police during the COVID lockdowns in Greater Sydney.

YOUR RIGHTS WITH POLICE

- **If you breach the new COVID-19 laws**, police can fine or arrest you.
- Under restrictions starting 9 July, **you must carry proof of address** in the Greater Sydney region if you're 18 years old or older. If police ask you for evidence of your address, you are required to show them.
- **Police must tell you why** they are stopping, searching or arresting you.
- Ask police for their **name and police station**.
- **If police want to search you**, say: "I do not agree to being searched" but cooperate with the search.
- **If police ask you questions**, tell them your name and say: "I do not wish to discuss anything further."
- **If you sustain any injuries from police conduct**, go to a doctor ASAP, take photos, and get legal advice.

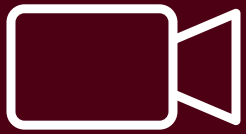
YOUR RIGHTS WITH POLICE: PEOPLE 17 AND UNDER

- **Tell police if you are 17 or younger.**
- **If you're under 14**, a parent or guardian should be present for formal questioning.
- **If you're 14-17**, an adult of your choice should be present for formal questioning.

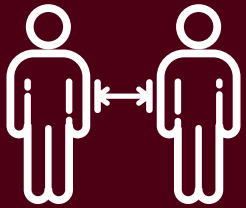
WHAT IF I SEE SOMEONE BEING STOPPED, SEARCHED OR ARRESTED?

- If you see someone being stopped, searched or arrested – and you are already outside for a valid reason – you may choose to **monitor it**.
- **You have a legal right to film police**, if it is in a public place and you are not interfering with the officer's duties.
- Without getting in the way of police **ask the person's name**, and if there's someone you can call for them.
- If you can, **try to get their contact details** so you can share the footage with them if they need it.

TIPS ON OBSERVING POLICE



Record in landscape mode. You'll see more.



Keep COVID-safe. Film at a good distance.



Hold your phone steady, and close to your chest. If you have to move while filming, move slowly.



Context is important. What happens before the stop, arrest or search is just as important.



Try to get clear images of **police badges**.



Remember: **observers have no special legal rights** and can be arrested and fined too.

NEED FREE LEGAL HELP?

- **If you are under 18**, call Legal Aid Youth Hotline on 1800 10 18 10.
- **If you are Indigenous**, call ALS (NSW/ACT) on 1800 765 767.
- **All other people can call LawAccess NSW** on 1300 888 529.
- **If you want free legal advice on making a formal complaint about police conduct, or if you have been issued a COVID-19 fine**, contact Redfern Legal Centre on 02 9698 7277 or www.rlc.org.au.

HAVE YOU BEEN STOPPED BY POLICE IN RELATION TO COVID?

- **If you wish to share your story anonymously**, go to www.covidpolicing.org.au. You may also want to seek free legal advice.

GET IN CONTACT

- **To get in touch with Legal Observers NSW**, email legalobserversnsw@protonmail.com.
- We have capacity to reply in English, Arabic, Turkish, Dari, Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, Serbian, Croatian, and Macedonian.