

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH NSW POLICE

A guide for interacting with police when engaging in solidarity actions 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.
- **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.
- If you are away from home without a reasonable excuse, **police can direct you to return home**. Police can fine you if you do not comply.
- **Police must tell you why** they are stopping, searching, arresting you or why they are telling you to return home.
- Ask police for their **name or badge number, 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.

## RESTRICTIONS

- **You must wear a mask if you are not at home**. If you are exercising, you do not have to wear a mask but you must still carry a mask with you.
- If you live outside a declared LGA, you may leave home to undertake exercise or outdoor recreation in groups of no more than 2. **You must stay within your local government area or, if leaving your local government area, within 5km of your place of residence**.
- You must not participate in an outdoor public gathering in Greater Sydney of **more than 2 persons**.
- **You must not travel in a car with a person who is not a member of your household** or your nominated visitor.

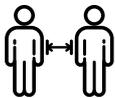
# WHAT IF I SEE SOMEONE BEING STOPPED, SEARCHED OR ARRESTED?

- 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 date of birth, 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. You can also send the footage to Legal Observers NSW on [legalobserversnsw@protonmail.com](mailto:legalobserversnsw@protonmail.com) or contact us on 0499 425 081.

## 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**.

## 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](http://www.rlc.org.au).