

DISCLAIMER — This card is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice. If you need legal advice, consult an attorney.



The Ohio Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild

Contact Information:

- **E-mail: ohio@nlg.org**
(Note: Do NOT send confidential or sensitive information.)
- **Jail Support Hotline: 216.505.0654 (5050 NLG)**
(Note: this phone is only monitored when we have dispatched legal observers or when specifically requested.)
- **Request Legal Observers: <https://tinyurl.com/ohionlg>**

If you are ARRESTED or DETAINED:

***I am going to remain silent.
I do not consent to a search.
I want a lawyer.***

The Ohio Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (Ohio NLG) aims to provide a general description of legal and practical issues that activists might face. Be aware that each person's circumstances are unique, and minor factual differences may result in very different outcomes. If you need legal advice, consult an attorney.

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Ohio NLG | Know Your Rights 'Fast Facts'

- **What if a police officer asks me a question?**
 - You are **never obligated** to answer any questions.
 - However, Ohio law requires you to identify yourself if:
 - (1) You are suspected of a crime; or
 - (2) You are a witness to a felony.
 - ONLY then are you obligated provide your:
 - Legal name, Date of Birth, and Address
 - If you refuse to identify yourself, you can be arrested.
 - You are **not** required to give a statement about anything that you witnessed or are suspected of.
 - You do **not** need to show a photo ID unless you are driving.
- **What if I am stopped by law enforcement?**
 - Stay calm and ask if you are being detained.
 - If the answer is no, you are free to leave.
 - If the answer is yes, you must stay.
 - **Loudly & clearly** state, "I am going to remain silent" and then remain silent - even if officers continue to talk to you.
 - Be aware that law enforcement can lie to you to coerce you into speaking.
- **What if a police officer asks to search my belongings?**
 - You are **not** obligated to consent to a search.
 - **Loudly & clearly** state, "I do not consent to a search."
 - But, if the officer has a search warrant or probable cause to conduct the search, they **do not** need to ask your permission.
 - And, if you are being detained, officers may conduct a brief over-the-clothes pat down to check for weapons.
- **First Amendment Issues:**
 - Streets, sidewalks, and parks are *generally* considered public forums for free speech activity and do not require a permit.
 - However, protests that block traffic or involve amplified sound often require a permit.

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