Everyone — Jail Support, protestors, arrestees — should be careful about what they say to police. Information can be used against arrested protestors.

One of the few things Jail Support should say to officers during an arrest is: “Where are they being taken?”

In Ohio, typically police will give a dispersal order before making any arrests.

If arrested, be prepared to: have all your belongings confiscated, get one phone call, spend some time in a holding cell before being put in general population, and to spend a night in jail if bail can’t be posted (or all weekend you’re arrested over the weekend).

Thanks to NLG, Black Movement Law Group and Mutant Legal for this manual’s content
WHAT IS JAIL SUPPORT?

Jail Support involves tracking arrested individuals as they move through the entire legal process: from the arrest and arraignment, including providing support when they’re released from jail.

It is a way of helping people with the burdens and responsibilities associated with a legal case by making sure they know how where to access information, when to be in court and how to get there, and providing support along the way.

Jail Support is a way of showing solidarity with activists, and helps to take care of friends and community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Cleveland
Jacqueline Green, NLG
ohio@nlg.org
216-5050-NLG (654)

Columbus
Amna Akbar
akbar.20@osu.edu
614-292-5432

Cincinnati
Dorianne Mason
dmason@ohiojpc.org
513-421-1108 ext. 19

Other resources
NLG Mass Defense Committee
National Conference of Black Lawyers

Other resources
NLG Mass Defense Committee
National Conference of Black Lawyers
Jail Support is:
- Tracking arrestees
- Providing community care

Court Support
Keep track of docket
Make sure people know of and have rides to court

Drivers
Provide transportation to home and court dates if needed

Jail Intake
Collect arrestees’ info
Convey info to hotline
Be prepared with comfort items

Roles:
Some of the roles are discussed in-depth in this manual, others are not

Hotline
Complete hotline training
Be on-call with attorney list

Non-Hotline
Remind people of court dates
Organize meetings
Confirm schedules

Bail
Be on-call to post bail
Maintain crowdfunding

Medic
Document injuries as activists are arrested and released from jail

Overview
Jail Support
Do I need to be a lawyer?

No. Jail Support can be done by anyone who is physically and mentally able. It can be political and personal, and the work may affect someone who is being held in jail. It is not legal support or advice.

Who does Jail Support?

Jail support is work that people involved in a specific movement or a specific organizing group can engage in to support their members. Alternatively, around larger actions or in some cities, there may be activists who engage in ongoing dedicated jail support work for organizers and demonstrators as a service and support effort. In Cleveland, jail support is done through an ongoing effort by Cleveland Action, a local activist collective, and others who have been trained and volunteer to assist. Other activists in other cities may wish to start up ongoing organized jail support systems, as well.

Before an Action

Understand that it is possible you may be arrested at a demonstration — there are a number of things to consider when weighing the risks. Do you have prior arrests? Citizenship status issues? Government benefits that a conviction could impact? Daily medication? Transgender or gender non-conforming people may face additional risks.

If you plan to be arrested at an action, be sure that jail support is organized in advance or work with a jail support-providing group. Also consider speaking with a movement and/or NLG attorney.

Before every action, it is a good practice to provide the following information to someone who is not at the demonstration — whether this person is another activist, friend, or family member:

- Legal name (and name you are known by)
- Date of birth
- Someone to contact if bail is needed
- If you have any of the above-mentioned concerns
Jail Support are most useful if they haven’t been arrested

Jail Support should avoid getting arrested. It is best practice to have 2-8 Jail Support at an action, or more, depending on the size of the action.

However, if the action is high-risk for arrests, jail support workers should consider not being present at the action in order to ensure that they can provide support and not end up in jail themselves.

Jail Support should be ready to leave an action early to follow arrestees to find out where they are taken. It can be helpful to have a Jail Support point person who is on a bike who can discretely follow the van holding the arrestees to the jail — this way Jail Support will know for certain where the arrestees are taken.

Again, while it’s important to try to watch where people are taken, it’s only useful to the extent that Jail Support don’t also end up being picked up and taken to jail.

Jail Support at the action should introduce themselves to any Legal Observers and work with them if arrests occur.

If you see an arrest happen, ask the arrestee for their name and birth date. However, be mindful of police orders while trying to engage arrestees during an arrest — be careful about doing anything that could be interpreted as interfering with arrest.

Organizers should consider setting up a jail support hotline or dedicated phone line staffed by activists if one does not already exist. This alleviates some of the problems around following arrest buses, since people will have a phone number they can call while in jail and they can report where they were taken via the hotline.

In Cleveland, the Jail Support Hotline # is (216) 5050-NLG.
Ohio NLG | Know Your Rights

Fast Facts

What if a police officer asks me a question?
- You never have to answer any questions
- Under Ohio law, you are only required to identify yourself if: (1) you are suspected of a crime; or (2) you are a witness to a felony
- Loudly & clearly ask, “Am I legally required to identify myself?”
- If yes, ONLY then are you obligated to provide your legal name, birthdate and address
- If you refuse to identify yourself in those situations, you can be arrested.

What if I am stopped by law enforcement?
- Unless you are being detained, you are free to leave — stay calm and ask if you are being detained
- If yes, you must stay but are not obligated to answer any questions.
  Loudly & clearly state, “I am going to remain silent” and then remain totally silent — even if officers continue to speak to you.
  If you are being detained, officers may conduct a brief over-the-clothes pat down to check for weapons.

What if a police officer asks to search my belongings?
- You are not obligated to consent to a search unless the officer has a search warrant or probable cause to conduct the search
- Loudly & clearly state, “I do not consent to a search.”

Jail Support can make a collective and/or individual decision ahead of time whether to speak to law enforcement at all.

It is best not to give law enforcement any information on anything: the individual being arrested, the action, yourself, etc. An important exception is if the arrested individual is injured or having a health problem. In this case, it is acceptable to ask a commanding officer to help the arrestee.

The manner in which non-arrestees interact with law enforcement can impact how the arrestees are treated. Therefore, it is best practice for Jail Support point people to speak calmly and politely to law enforcement.

There is only one question that Jail Support should regularly ask cops when arrests happen (and please note that what the cops tell you may or may not be the truth):

“Where are they being taken?”
IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARREST

After the arrest and once arrestees’ names and birthdates are obtained, a designated Jail Support should stay near where arrestees are being held in a police vehicle.

Ideally someone on a bike will discreetly follow the police vehicle holding the arrestees to the jail to know where they will be held. If this is not feasible, 2-3 Jail Support should go to a quiet and safe location to try and locate where the arrestees were taken. Other Jail Support members stay with the action in case of other arrests.

Trying to locate which jail arrestees are taken to can be frustrating. It will take time for the arrestees to be put into the system. Police officers could refuse to answer (or even lie to you) about the location of the arrestees. Before making any calls to the precincts, check in with the NLG office. They may have more information and may be able to direct you to certain precincts. Coordinating with the NLG and making the phone calls to locate the arrestees could be a good job for the offsite person with the list of names.

BAIL

Certain situations are much more likely to result in bail being imposed: having a warrant, having prior arrests, having missed court dates in the past, and being from out of state are some examples.

Ideally, arrestees will know ahead of time who they could contact for bail money. If/when bail is set, contact the Jail Support who held the list and ask who the arrestee’s contact is to call for bail. If there is not a person on the list, notify the NLG.

If bail money is available, tell the court officers that you will be posting bail as soon as cash arrives and go immediately to the bail office and start waiting for the form for posting bail. Even after posting bail, the arrestee may not be released immediately. This can be a long process — arrestees should be prepared.

To find out how much someone’s bail is, call the Clerk of Courts in the county where the arrest occurred.

How much will it cost?

Bail is based on what the arrestee is charged with. If using a bail bondsman, the arrestee generally only has to post 10% of the bail amount for the bondsman to post the entire bail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ohio Residents arrested in Franklin County:</th>
<th>Non-residents of Ohio arrested in Franklin County:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Degree Misdemeanor: $500</td>
<td>1st Degree Misdemeanor: $2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Degree Misdemeanor: $400</td>
<td>2nd Degree Misdemeanor: $1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Degree Misdemeanor: $300</td>
<td>3rd Degree Misdemeanor: $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Degree Misdemeanor: $200</td>
<td>4th Degree Misdemeanor: $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Misdemeanor: $100</td>
<td>Minor Misdemeanor: $100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When Arrestees Are Released

Jail Support usually sets up outside the jail — close but not blocking the entrance. This is not the place to be confrontational with the police.

If the arrest numbers for the arrestees were not already obtained, 1-2 people should go into the precinct with a list of the arrestees’ names and birthdays and request their arrest numbers. The same 1-2 people should also periodically go into the jail and ask where the arrestees will be sent.

The important thing to find out is if the arrestees will be transferred before they’re released. The desk officer may legitimately not have this information for the first few hours. It is good to remain in contact with the NLG as they will likely be working to get this information as well.

If you are told that the arrestees will be released, contact other Jail Support and tell them to head over to the jail. It is best to stay at the jail until you see the arrestees released or being transferred in a vehicle.

AT THE JAIL

Being polite and organized does not guarantee that any/all officers will be polite and respectful to you in return, but it should not add fuel to the fire. At this point the arrestees are in police custody. Being argumentative with the desk officers will not help arrestees get released fasted or help Jail Support obtain information.

STRONGLY urge arrestees not to talk about their arrest outside the jail

It is always best if the arrestees’ partners, family and friends can be present when they are released. They will know best and know the best ways to comfort the arrested individuals.

Coming out of jail can be overwhelming so respect their boundaries when offering support. Not everyone wants a hug.

Make sure to take care of their basic needs first. Do they need water? Food? A phone to call a loved one? If they were injured have someone take pictures of their injuries, with their consent.

Inform the NLG that the arrested individual is out. Then, make sure you get all important information from the arrested individual: (1) legal name, (2) charges, (3) court return date, and (4) contact info- either phone or email (5) date, time, and location of arrest.

If you are arrested and are not a citizen, do not share that information with anyone except your attorney.

Once released, arrestees may want to wait for all of their fellow arrestees to be released before leaving, or they may want to leave as soon as possible. They will also likely need to go to the jail to pick up their belongings. People may not want to do this alone and it is best if there are people that are able to accompany the arrestee(s) to do this.
Continuing Support

Jail Support roles continue after an individual is released from jail. In order to provide continuing support to activists, Jail Support may consider putting together meeting of people who have been arrested, with some attorneys who are well versed in criminal defense and civil work to bring them into a space so they can ask questions they have so they can be active participants in their defense.

You can also confirm that arrestees have representation — consider using a list of attorneys in the community who do pro bono work. It can also be helpful to arrested individuals to have community support, so rallying community members can be an important role.

It is extremely important to help activists navigate the court system. This may involve:
• Checking the docket for new court dates and times and keeping track of that information
• Calling and making sure people know about and have rides to court dates
• Being at the courthouse to meet people before/after hearings, and if wanted/possible — provide support by sitting with people as they wait for their case in courtrooms
• Checking the docket to seeing if people showed up to court (and if not, whether capias warrant issued — then try to call the person and get them connected with their lawyer)

Legal Process
You have the right to an attorney, and may be assigned a public defender if you cannot afford a private attorney.

Plead guilty →
Potential Penalties:
Fine
Jail/Prison term
Community Service

Plead not guilty

Pre-trial conference

Judge or jury trial

Found guilty

Found not guilty

Potential Penalties:
Fine
Jail/Prison term
Community Service
If someone is arrested in Cleveland, Ohio, they will normally be taken to Cleveland City Jail to be booked and processed until their arraignment or until released on bail.

Cleveland police have stated that in mass arrest situations, they will use other facilities as needed. Arrestees may eventually be taken to the House of Corrections ("Workhouse"), located at 4041 Northfield Rd, Cleveland, Ohio 44122. Call 216-464-9100.

Arrestees will usually be released between 24-48 hours when charged with a misdemeanor. Cleveland has a judge who hears arraignments on Saturdays.

Cleveland City Jail
1300 Ontario St.,
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-623-5378

If someone is arrested in Columbus, Ohio, they will be taken to one of two Franklin County jails, to be booked and processed until their arraignment or until released on bail.

Franklin County Correctional Center I ("Franklin County")
370 S. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-525-3368

Franklin County Correctional Center II ("The Workhouse")
2460 Jackson Pike
Columbus, OH 43223
614-525-7100

They also may be taken to Cleveland Division of Police Districts.