

### HOW TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS:

- Politely ask if you are under arrest. If you are, you have the right to know why - and immediately ask for a lawyer. If not, ask if you are free to leave.
- Exercise your right to remain silent.
- Do not make any statements or confessions even if the police say it will help you avoid arrest, prosecution, or having something on your record.
- Remember officers' names, badge and patrol car numbers. Make notes right away with dates and complete descriptions of all incidents.
- If you are injured, take photographs of the injuries as soon as possible after seeking medical attention.
- If you feel your rights are violated, don't complain or argue on the scene or tell the police that you are going to file a complaint. Instead, file a written complaint with:

- The police department's internal affairs division
- Citizen Police Review Board (Clark County only)
- The ACLU of Nevada

### HOW TO CONTACT THE ACLU OF NEVADA:

The ACLU of Nevada does not have the resources to do any in-person or over-the-phone intake or consultations whatsoever and cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide you with assistance.

However, you can complete a complaint form online with descriptions of the incident at [www.aclunv.org](http://www.aclunv.org). You may also obtain or drop off a complaint form at one of our offices for our consideration.

732 S. Sixth St. #200A 1325 Airmotive Way #202  
Las Vegas, NV 89101 Reno, NV 89502

## THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND POLICE ENCOUNTERS

- Think carefully about your words, movement, body language, and emotions.
- Do not interfere with, obstruct, bad-mouth, or run away from the police - you can be arrested for it.
- Don't resist even if you believe you're innocent.
- Keep your hands where the police can see them.
- Don't run. Don't touch any police officer.
- The police can legally ask for your name if you have been properly detained, and you can be arrested for refusing to give it. If you reasonably fear your name is incriminating, you can claim the right to remain silent, which may be a defense if you are arrested anyway.
- You have a legal right to refuse to provide information other than your name or answer questions if you are detained or arrested.
- The police may "pat down" your clothes if they suspect a concealed weapon.
- You do not have to consent to any further search of yourself or your belongings. If you DO consent to a search, it can affect your rights later in court. If the police say they have a search warrant, ASK TO SEE IT.
- If the police proceed to search, do not physically resist, but make it clear that you do not consent to any further search.

KEEP THIS CARD HANDY!  
IF YOU HAVE A POLICE ENCOUNTER,  
YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF.



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### FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS:

- You have a constitutionally protected right to engage in peaceful protest in "traditional public forums" such as streets, sidewalks or parks.
- First Amendment activities include: protesting, preaching, drumming, dancing, singing, chanting, distributing literature, holding signs, collecting petition signatures, setting up tables on public sidewalks or in front of government buildings.
- Street performers, such as musicians, puppeteers, or mimes, have the right to express themselves in public.
- You have the right to wear a mask while engaging in a protest.

### THE FIRST AMENDMENT DOES NOT PROTECT:

- Violation of established laws such as trespassing, disobeying or interfering with a police officer, and actually obstructing the sidewalk;
- Advocating imminent violence or provoking unlawful actions (merely inflammatory speech is protected);
- Obscene speech that directly refers to explicit sexual acts, is offensive to the contemporary community, and lacks social value;
- Civil disobedience - peaceful, but unlawful, activities in the form of protest;
- Endangering or physically harassing people;
- Blocking the entrance to a building;
- Free speech activity on private property without the consent of the property owner (sidewalks and bridges along the Strip and Fremont Street are public forums).

### THE STRIP AND FREMONT STREET:

- The sidewalks and pedestrian bridges directly adjacent to the Strip and Fremont Street are public forums, even if they are privately owned.
- First Amendment activities are allowed there as you are not disrupting other people, forcing passersby to accept leaflets, causing traffic problems, or obstructing movement.

### ABOUT PERMITS:

- The government can require permits for certain First Amendment activities using reasonable "Time, place and manner" restrictions.
- The process for approving a permit must not be based on content or viewpoint. The government cannot impose permit restrictions simply because it does not like the message of a certain speaker or group.
- A permit is required if the protest will block vehicular or pedestrian traffic, but are not usually required for a small march that stays on public sidewalks and obeys all traffic signals.
- A permit is required to protest on the courthouse steps and you may be asked to leave if you do not have one. Use of the sidewalks adjacent to the courthouse is not restricted.
- Permits are generally required for groups over 75 persons using a public park.
- Permits can be required for using amplified sound.
- Permits can be obtained from the government agency responsible for the given area of use.

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