

If you are **ARRESTED** by a school police officer, **DO...**

- ◆ DO remain calm and cooperative. Being arrested can be scary and humiliating, but do your best to remain calm.
- ◆ DO ask why you are being arrested.
- ◆ DO assert your right to remain silent, by saying:
 - "I am not resisting arrest."
 - "I have the right to remain silent."
 - "I would like to speak to a lawyer."
- ◆ DO ask for your parent or guardian to be called.

Your right to remain silent includes the right NOT to confess to a crime. Do not write or sign a written confession until you speak with an attorney. If the police force or intimidate you into signing your name, you should immediately tell your attorney.

If you are **ARRESTED** by a school police officer, **DON'T...**

- ◆ DON'T run away or physically resist getting arrested.
- ◆ DON'T give them any information except your name, address, grade level, and birthday.
- ◆ DON'T lie, give explanations, excuses, or stories.
- ◆ DON'T talk about your case on the phone.
- ◆ DON'T discuss your immigration status or citizenship with anyone other than your lawyer.



How are school police different than other police?

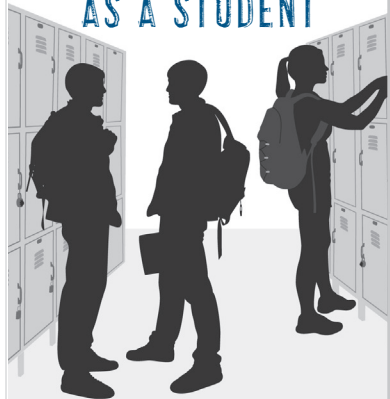
- ◆ In California, police officers assigned to work at public schools are often called "School Resource Officers" (SROs).
- ◆ School police can STOP & QUESTION, SEARCH, and ARREST you just like other police officers.
- ◆ In fact, school police sometimes have MORE authority to question you and search you, your locker, and/or your bag than other police officers.

This guide is meant to offer some basic DO's and DON'Ts when interacting with school police or School Resource Officers at your school. This list applies to the state of California only. This is not complete advice. Be sure to consult a lawyer. Esta tarjeta tambien se puede obtener en espanol.



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POLICE AT SCHOOL: YOUR RIGHTS AS A STUDENT



**PRACTICAL TIPS TO REMEMBER
IF YOU ARE STOPPED,
QUESTIONED, SEARCHED, OR
ARRESTED BY SCHOOL POLICE**

If you are STOPPED and QUESTIONED by school police, DO...

- ◆ DO be respectful and remain calm and cool.
- ◆ DO keep your hands out of your pockets and where the officer can see them.
- ◆ DO give basic information about yourself if asked (name, grade level, address, birthday, etc.)
- ◆ DO ask "Am I free to go to class?" or "Am I free to go home?"
- ◆ DO ask why they are questioning you.
- ◆ DO remember the officer's name.
- ◆ DO remember that you have the right to remain silent, and TELL THEM you want to use that right. Say: "I have the right to remain silent. I do not want to answer any questions until I speak with an attorney."

If you are STOPPED and QUESTIONED by school police, DON'T...

- ◆ DON'T run away or physically resist them.
- ◆ DON'T be disrespectful, mouth off, or argue (even if you think they are wrong!)
- ◆ DON'T refuse to give basic information about yourself (name, grade level, address, birthday, etc.)
- ◆ DON'T lie. Instead, just tell the officer you don't want to talk to them until you talk to a lawyer.
- ◆ DON'T discuss your immigration status or citizenship with anyone other than your lawyer.



If a school police officer wants to SEARCH you, DO...

- ◆ DO remain calm.
- ◆ DO ask the officer why they are searching you.
- ◆ DO ask if they have the principal's permission to search you, your bag, or your locker.
- ◆ DO loudly, but calmly say: "I DO NOT WANT YOU TO SEARCH ME" if you do not wish to be searched.
- ◆ DO try to find witnesses and get their names and phone numbers.

SILENCE = CONSENT.

**You must say out loud,
"I DO NOT WANT YOU TO
SEARCH ME."**

If a school police officer wants to SEARCH you, DON'T...

- ◆ DON'T consent to the search if you do not want to. Even if you cannot stop the search from happening, you can speak up and say: "I DO NOT WANT YOU TO SEARCH ME"
- ◆ DON'T physically resist the officer from searching you.
- ◆ DON'T bring items to school or store items in your locker that are against school rules and illegal. Including:
 - ANY weapon or anything that LOOKS LIKE a weapon
 - Illegal drugs and/or drug paraphernalia
 - Drugs prescribed to you by your doctor
 - Alcohol
 - Cigarettes and other tobacco products
 - Anything that can start a fire, such as lighters and matches.

**Lockers are NOT your private property!
School officials or school police officers
can search your locker if they have a real
reason to believe there is something in
it that violates the law or a school rule.**