

Civil Rights

What to do When You Get Bumped



Know Them



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Civil Rights

What to do When You Get Bumped
I've been stopped by the police in public.

- You have the right to remain silent
- You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings, but police may pat down your clothing if they suspect a weapon
- In Colorado, you do have to provide proof of identity upon request; failure to do so leads to further obstruction charges
- You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, whether you are a U.S. citizen, or how you entered the country

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I've been pulled over by the police

- Both drivers and passengers have the right to remain silent
- If you're a passenger, you can ask if you're free to leave. If yes, you may silently leave.
- In Colorado, you do have to provide proof of identity upon request; failure to do so leads to further obstruction charges
- If you have been arrested by police, you have the right to make a local phone call. The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer. They can and often will listen to a call made to anyone else.

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What to do if you are arrested or detained

- Say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately. Don't give any explanations or excuses. Don't say anything, sign anything, or make any decisions without a lawyer.

- If you have been arrested by police, you have the right to make a local phone call. The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer. They can and often will listen to a call made to anyone else.

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If you believe your rights were violated

- Write down everything you remember, including officers' badges and patrol car numbers, which agency the officers were from, and any other details. Get contact information for witnesses.
- If you're injured, seek medical attention immediately and take photographs of your injuries.
- File a written complaint with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board. In most cases, you can file a complaint anonymously if you wish.

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Further Resources:

MHLA Center:

<https://www.milehighlegalassist.com/mhla-center>

ACLU:

<https://www.aclu-co.org/>

Don't Call the Police

(alternative options to police in Denver Metro)

<https://dontcallthepolice.com/denver/>

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