



Legal Rights Factsheet

When confronted by the police, you have the right:

To Keep Quiet

Right to Remain Silent:

- ❑ Don't answer police questions without talking to an attorney first
- ❑ Police are trained to get information from people they question. Don't try to outsmart them by lying. Be smart by remaining silent

To Not Be Illegally Searched or Detained

Right Against Unreasonable Searches & Seizures:

- ❑ In order to stop you for questioning, police must have a reasonable suspicion that you have committed a crime or are about to commit a crime
- ❑ In order to arrest you, police must have probable cause that you have committed a crime or are about to commit a crime
- ❑ Police cannot search your pockets or bags without probable cause
- ❑ Police may do a pat down (of your clothing) to frisk for weapons before they question you if they believe they are in danger
- ❑ You give up the above rights if you agree or consent to being searched.

To Get Free Advice

Right to an Attorney:

- ❑ Just like adults, kids have the right to an attorney, whether or not you have been officially accused of a crime
- ❑ Police do not have to provide you with an attorney, but they must stop questioning you if you say that you would like to talk to your attorney first
- ❑ The Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem provides free criminal defense attorneys to residents of Upper Manhattan

For more information about your legal rights, contact S.T.A.T.E. at the address or phone number below.

S.T.A.T.E. stands for Students Taking Action Towards Empowerment. We provide free workshops, after-school and summer programs, internships and other educational opportunities for youth and the Harlem community.