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YOUR TOP 10 RIGHTS WITH THE POLICE

MUST I SPEAK WITH THE POLICE? No, except that in some states one can be prosecuted for not giving one's name when asked and when police have reasonable suspicion to believe the person has committed a crime.

MUST I GIVE MY IDENTIFICATION IF I AM NOT DRIVING A CAR? No. The law does not require one to carry identification.

MUST DRIVERS SHOW THE POLICE IDENTIFICATION? It can be risky not to.

IF THE POLICE STOP ME, WHAT DO I DO? You can assert your rights to remain silent and to refuse searches, without being confrontational.

IF THE POLICE UNLAWFULLY DETAIN ME, MAY I USE PHYSICAL FORCE? The risks can be high of using even legitimate-seeming physical force with law enforcement.

MUST I AGREE TO A SEARCH OF MY PERSON, PROPERTY, CAR OR HOUSE?
No. If you do not agree to a search, clearly say so.

IF THE POLICE SHOW ME A SEARCH WARRANT, MUST I ASSIST IN FINDING THE ITEMS THEY SEEK, AND IN OPENING LOCKED OR PASSWORD-PROTECTED ITEMS? No.

MUST I REMAIN WITH THE POLICE MERELY BECAUSE THE POLICE ARE SPEAKING TO ME? If you are unsure whether you are free to leave, ask if you are free to leave.

WHAT DO I DO IF SUSPECTED OF DRINKING AND DRIVING? Remember your right to remain silent. Beware the junk science of field tests. Beware when refusal to do field tests or to give a breath/blood sample can be considered against you at trial.

WHAT DO I DO IF THE POLICE THREATEN ME WITH ARREST OR ARREST ME? Consult with a qualified criminal defense lawyer.

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