

Tips for interacting with the **POLICE**

In this brochure
you will find tips for
interacting with police
and understanding
your rights and
responsibilities.



UW-EAU CLAIRE POLICE
police@uwec.edu | uwec.ly/police
715-836-2222

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

If you are stopped for questioning

- Stay calm. Don't argue, resist or obstruct the police, even if you are innocent. Avoid physical contact with the police. Keep your hands where police can see them. Do not make sudden movements. Do not run, even if you are afraid of the police.
- You don't have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings, but police may "pat down" your clothing if they suspect a weapon. You should not physically resist, but you have the right to refuse consent for any further search.
- If you are under arrest, you have a right to know why, and a right to remain silent. If you wish to remain silent, tell the officer out loud.

If you are stopped in your car

- Stop in a safe place as quickly as possible. Turn off the car, turn on the internal light, open the window, and place your hands on the steering wheel.
- Upon request, show police your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. Do not make sudden movements.
- If an officer asks to look inside your car, you can refuse to consent to the search. However, if police have probable cause to believe your car contains evidence of a crime, your car can be searched without your consent. The officer will state the reason for the search, ask you to exit your vehicle, and may restrain you with handcuffs for the duration of the search.

Your responsibilities

- Be polite and respectful. Stay calm and remain in control. Be mindful of your words, body language, and emotions.
- Do not argue with or physically interfere with the police.
- Do not lie or give false documents.
- Do remember the details of the encounter.

If you are arrested

- Do not resist arrest, even if you believe the arrest is unfair.
- If you are arrested for a crime AND asked incriminating questions, the officer must inform you of your constitutional rights (Miranda rights), which include:
 - You have the right to remain silent.
 - Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.
 - You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you.

Your rights

- You have the right to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud.
- You have the right to refuse consent to a search of yourself, your car, your apartment, or your residence hall room.
- If you are not under arrest, or are not being legally detained, you have a right to calmly leave.
- You have the right to a lawyer if you are arrested.
- Regardless of your immigration or citizenship status, you have constitutional rights.
- If you feel your rights have been violated, or if you have been mistreated you have the right to file a complaint with police jurisdiction involved.

Additional questions and concerns

- For questions or concerns for University Police: uwec.ly/police
- For questions, concerns, or complaints about bias, discrimination or harassment by a UW-Eau Claire employee:
 - Affirmative Action Office: uwec.ly/affirm
 - Bias Incident Response Team: uwec.ly/birt

This information is not indented as legal advice.

Excerpted from "Know your Rights: What to do if your stopped by police" (ACLU.org)