

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



FBI & LAW ENFORCEMENT



KYR: FBI & Law Enforcement

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IF THE FBI APPROACHES YOU:

Stay Silent, & Call CAIR-Ohio



If at home:

Step outside and close the door behind you



If at work:

Lead them away from your personal space




If you are called:

Go to a quiet space



SAY:

“I do not wish to speak without an attorney present. Can I please have your business card?
Thank you, goodbye.” 



Visit: cair-ohio.com/report-an-incident

Call: 614-451-3232

Columbus Office

513-281-8200

Cincinnati Office

614-219-7330

Client Intake Specialist



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**An FBI agent
has called you
or knocked on
your door.**

**You may feel
scared,
overwhelmed,
and unsure of
what to do.**

**This is what you
should know.**

1

**You always have the right to
remain silent.**

You are not obligated to answer questions from an FBI agent. Your refusal to talk to the FBI agent may not be used against you.

2

**You always have the right to
request an attorney.**

You should refuse to answer questions until you have a chance to speak with an attorney. Even if you have already started talking, you can stop at any time. Tell the agent you do not want to answer any more questions without a lawyer present.



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3

Stay silent and never, ever lie.

Lying to FBI agents can be a crime. It is a felony to make a false statement to an FBI agent if it is related to an investigation.

4

**Speaking to an FBI agent is
dangerous, even if you think you're
telling the truth.**

Sometimes, inadvertently mixing up details—like the dates of your travel or when you last spoke to a particular individual—can be used against you in a criminal prosecution. An attorney will work with you to make sure this doesn't happen.

**Stay safe: never speak with
the FBI alone!**



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**Asking for an attorney does not
make you seem more suspicious.**

Some people mistakenly believe they can prove they are innocent by speaking to the FBI. This is extremely risky. The FBI has racially profiled, surveilled, and engaged in other abuses in Muslim communities after 9/11.

You should speak to an attorney before speaking to the FBI. An attorney can assess your situation and advise you on the best way forward. If you speak to the FBI without legal assistance, you could expose yourself and your family and friends to harm.



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IF LAW ENFORCEMENT WANTS TO STOP OR SEARCH YOU:

If You Are Stopped on Foot

You don't have to answer any questions. Providing your name, address, age, and ID if asked may help you avoid arrest.

Never give any false information—lying to the police can lead to serious consequences. Police may pat down your clothing if they suspect a concealed weapon.



Don't resist, but tell them politely:

"I do not consent to a search."

Ask the officer, "am I free to leave?" If the officer says yes, calmly walk away. Don't argue with the officer or run away. This could lead to your arrest.



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IF LAW ENFORCEMENT WANTS TO STOP OR SEARCH YOU:

If You Are Pulled Over in a Car

Show your registration, proof of insurance, and driver's license.



The police may not search your car without a warrant unless they have probable cause of an ongoing crime.



In the case of an unlawful search, calmly & clearly state:

"I do not consent to a search."

Sign your ticket if you are given one and contact the court by the date on the ticket.



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IF LAW ENFORCEMENT WANTS TO STOP OR SEARCH YOU:

If They Ask For Your Phone

You should not give officers
your phone or your password.

You should not consent to a
search of your phone.



Officers can
search your phone
without consent
**only if they have a
warrant for the
phone.**



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IF LAW ENFORCEMENT WANTS TO STOP OR SEARCH YOU:

If You Are at Home

If law enforcement officers knock and ask to enter, open the door a crack and speak to them from behind the door. Do not consent to them entering or searching your home. **They can enter without consent only if:**

1

The officers have a warrant signed by a judge.

Ask to see it and check the address and scope of the area to be searched.



Object to any search beyond what is allowed by the warrant:

“I do not consent to that search, which is outside the scope of the warrant.”



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2

You are on probation with a search condition.



3

There is an emergency.

Such as a person screaming for help inside your home, or the police are chasing someone.

