

If You Think You've Experienced or Witnessed Police Misconduct

File a complaint with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). We investigate and mediate complaints about misconduct by NYPD officers.

The CCRB is independent, impartial and not a part of the Police Department.

Ways to File a Complaint

- ▶ Call our Hotline: 1-800-341-2272
- ▶ Call 311, anytime 24/7
- ▶ Come to our office, 40 Rector Street, New York, NY 10006. Monday-Friday 8 AM to 5 PM, no appointment is necessary.
- ▶ Fill out a complaint form online: www.nyc.gov/ccrb
- ▶ Write to us at the above address.

If you've been injured, seek medical attention immediately, then photograph your injuries.



Civilian Complaint
Review Board

What to Do if a Police Officer Stops You

What you say and do during these encounters may have an impact on how the situation progresses and whether it escalates into an incident that further inconveniences or negatively affects you.

Tips

- Stay calm and don't move around a lot.
- Keep your hands visible and still. If you fidget or put your hands in your pockets, police may suspect that you are going for a concealed weapon.
- Answer officers' questions respectfully; be cooperative. If asked, you do not have to consent to a search.

Tips (continued)

- Don't argue. It often makes things worse.
- Do not resist arrest. Anything you do that is physically interfering with an officer's effort to detain you, such as pulling away, will be seen as resisting and can result in an additional charge or make the situation more dangerous.
- Carry an ID at all times. While this is not a requirement, it's good for your own safety to have one.
- Pay attention to the details of the encounter, for example, the officer's badge number and name. While police officers are required to give you this information if you ask, some may not. Also note the officer's physical description and the number on a patrol car.

What You Need to Know about Police Authority

- The police are allowed to approach people and ask for information when there's a reason for doing so. An officer has the right to stop (temporarily detain) you if he or she has a reasonable suspicion that you are committing, have committed or are about to commit a crime.
- During that stop, if an officer reasonably believes you have a weapon, he or she is permitted to frisk or pat down your outer clothing.
 - If the officer feels an object and reasonably believes that it could be a weapon, the officer is allowed to reach into your pocket to check the object.
 - Police officers who patrol NYC Housing Authority buildings can check that people are there lawfully — that they are legal residents or legitimate visitors.