

What you need to know and how you can help hold LMPD accountable to the people. Fold this booklet inside out to know your rights when interacting with police.

# CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATION INTO LMPD

U.S. Department of Justice

In April 2021 federal civil rights officials launched an investigation into LMPD to determine whether or not officers systemically violate people's constitutional rights.

The investigation will rely on stories from all types of people in who live in Louisville. DOJ will use every possible tool to protect your privacy and maintain confidentiality.

## WHAT IS DOJ INVESTIGATING?

**The investigation into LMPD is broad.** DOJ is looking into LMPD's practices to determine whether or not there is a pattern of LMPD violating people's constitutional rights. For example, DOJ will look at whether or not LMPD:

- engages in excessive use of force
- limits First Amendment protected activities, such as protesting
- discriminates against certain groups of people
- conducts inappropriate arrests or stops, searches, and seizures

## WHAT WILL THE INVESTIGATION DO?

DOJ has investigated only 72 local police departments since they were granted this authority in 1994, including those in Baltimore, New Orleans, and Ferguson.

The Civil Rights Division is asking people to share their stories so they can learn more and force LMPD to change its policies.

If DOJ proves systemic misconduct, they can force LMPD and Metro government to change. Local officials can enter an agreement with DOJ voluntarily or DOJ can go to court to reach an agreement enforced by the court.



**LEARN MORE**

- Learn more about this investigation at ACLU-KY.org/DOJInvestigation
- Fold this booklet inside out to know your rights when interacting with police.
- Visit ACLU-KY.org/KYR to know your rights in all situations, including with ICE, when protesting, at school, and more.
- Follow @ACLUofKY on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay up to date and get involved.
- Veá esta información en español en ACLU-KY.org/DOJInvestigation
- Conozca sus derechos al interactuar con la policía y en otras situaciones en ACLU-KY.org/KYR

## HOW LONG WILL THE INVESTIGATION TAKE?

It often takes more than a year from the time an investigation is announced to the time an agreement is reached between a police department and DOJ. The full process took 16 months in Seattle and 18 months in Ferguson.

## DOJ NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU:

**This investigation depends on stories from people like you.** Many people have already shared negative police interactions with state and local authorities who did not take action. This investigation is run by the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. **Your stories will help them fully understand the role LMPD plays in the community and create change.**

**DOJ will use every protection available to protect your privacy** and ensure your story does not include information revealing your identity. This investigation will not be used to advance other government agencies' work.

**If criminal wrongdoing by LMPD officers is uncovered in your story, DOJ may refer the issue for criminal prosecution.**

## HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY:

**Contact Ethan Trinh** in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Kentucky.

Call: (844) 920-1460 | Email: [Community.Louisville@USDOJ.gov](mailto:Community.Louisville@USDOJ.gov)

## REDUCE YOUR RISK:

Stay calm. Don't run, resist, or obstruct officers. Don't lie or give false documents. Keep hands visible.

- **If you are a guest** and answer the door, make clear to police that you do not have the authority to let them in without homeowner's permission.
- **You have the right to remain silent even if officers have a warrant.** Do not answer questions or speak to officers while they conduct their search. Silently observe what they do, where they go, and what they take. Write down all observations.
- **Ask officer to slip warrant under door or hold it up to window so you can read it.** Search warrants allow police to enter address listed on warrant, but they can only search areas/items listed in warrant. Arrest warrants have name of person to be arrested.
- **You do not have to let them in unless they show a warrant signed by judicial officer** that lists your address as a place to be searched or that has your name on it as the subject of an arrest warrant.
- **Do not invite officers into your house.** Talk through door and ask them to show identification.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN POLICE ARE AT YOUR DOOR:

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN ARRESTED BY POLICE:

- **Say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer.** Do not say/sign anything or make decisions without a lawyer. You have right to free lawyer if you can't afford one.
- **You have the right to make a local phone call.** The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer. They can listen to calls made to anyone else.

- **Stand at a safe distance. If possible, record incident.** You have right to observe and record plainly visible events in public spaces if you do not interfere with officers' actions or obstruct their movements.
- Write down everything you remember.
- Ask person who was targeted if they'd like your contact information in case they file a complaint or a lawsuit.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU WITNESS POLICE BRUTALITY:

- **Write down everything you remember,** incl. police badge/car numbers. Ask witnesses for contact info.
- **If you're injured,** seek medical attention and take photos of your injuries.
- **File a written complaint** with agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR RIGHTS WERE VIOLATED:

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN PULLED OVER BY POLICE:

- **The driver and passengers have right to remain silent.**
- **If you're a passenger,** you can ask if you're free to leave. If yes, you may silently leave.
- Turn off car, turn on overhead light, open window part way, place hands on wheel. If in the passenger seat, put hands on dashboard. Avoid making sudden movements.
- Upon request, show police driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN STOPPED BY POLICE IN PUBLIC:

- **Stay calm.** Keep hands visible. Don't argue, resist, or obstruct police, even if they're violating your rights.
- **Ask if you are free to leave.** If yes, walk away.
- **You have the right to remain silent.** You do not have to answer questions. If you wish to remain silent, say so.
- **You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings.** Police may pat down your clothing if they suspect a weapon. Refusing consent may not stop officers from searching, but objecting can help you in any later legal proceeding.

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH POLICE.

*Dobla este folleto al revés para español.*



Know Your Rights in all situations:  
ACLU-KY.org/KYR



ACLU-KY.org  
@ACLUofKY