

DO I HAVE TO GIVE A COP MY NUMBER OR GO ON A DATE IF THEY ASK?

Sexual harassment or assault by police officers is never OK! If you feel that you are being spoken to or touched inappropriately, you can ask for a supervisor to be called to the scene.

You don't have to give an officer your phone number.

If an officer offers to let you go if you do something for him, think twice. They may arrest you anyway.

Report sexual harassment and abuse by police!

CAN COPS CALL ME NAMES? TALK ABOUT MY BODY? CALL ME OUT OF MY NAME?

The cops are not allowed to make transphobic or homophobic remarks or discriminate against you based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

Cops are not allowed to make comments or ask invasive questions about your body or the way you look!

You have the right to be referred to by names and pronouns that reflect your gender identity (even if it doesn't match the information on your ID.) It may be a good idea to carry a copy of your legal name change documents if you have them along with your ID.

KNOWING AND EXERCISING YOUR RIGHTS IN A POLICE ENCOUNTER

FOR WOMEN & PEOPLE WITH BREASTS



CAN A MALE OFFICER SEARCH ME???

One of the first things women want to know is if a male officer can frisk or search us - because frisks and searches by male officers often feel like an unwanted invasion of our bodies.

The answer is - *it depends*.

If it's a frisk, yes - but it should be quick and superficial.

If the cop is just frisking you - meaning they are just doing a quick pat down of the outside of your clothing and squeezing the outside of your bag because:

- 1) they have a legal reason to stop you - meaning they have to have a **reasonable suspicion** that you just committed, are committing, or are about to commit a crime **AND**
- 2) **they have a reasonable suspicion that you are carrying a weapon** (they see a bulge in your pants in the shape of a gun or knife, or something shiny sticking out of your waistband, or your bag is *real* heavy)

then *an officer of any gender can frisk you*.

The reason is they are supposed to be able to check quickly whether you have a weapon to protect their safety while they are asking you questions to see if you actually were or are committing a crime.

If it's a search, especially at the precinct or central booking, generally speaking you should be searched by a female officer unless you ask for a male officer:

A "search" is any inspection of your person that goes beyond a "frisk." This includes going into your pockets, any bag or closed container you are carrying, feeling the inside of your waistband, taking off your hat, and removing your shoes.

Cops are only allowed to "search" you if:

- (1) they have "probable cause" (more evidence than "reasonable suspicion") to believe that the search will reveal evidence that you committed a crime, are armed or are concealing contraband,
- (2) if you consent to the search,
- (3) if they have a warrant, or
- (4) if you have been arrested.

You do NOT have to consent to a search of you, your home or your possessions. Say politely, but loudly enough to hear, "**I do not consent to this search.**" They will likely frisk or search you anyway, but at least that way you can protect your rights if it's not a lawful frisk or search. Be sure to tell your lawyer! This can help if the cops didn't have a legal justification to search you and then try to use what they find against you in court.

CAN THEY SEARCH ME TO ASSIGN ME A GENDER?

NO. NEVER. EVER.

Say "I do not consent to this search. The constitution does not allow you to search me to determine my gender."

CAN THEY TOUCH MY BREASTS? GROPE MY GROIN? SQUEEZE MY ASS?

When frisking or searching a person with breasts, a policing officer is supposed to only use the side of the hand, and run it quickly between the breasts and then across the chest below the breasts, palm facing down. They can also ask you to shake out your own bra. But they are not supposed to linger, squeeze or otherwise touch your breasts. Say "**I do not consent to this search!**"

Police officers are not supposed to grope your groin area or squeeze your buttocks unless they have a **really good reason** to believe you are somehow hiding a weapon or evidence in those areas!