

# ***KNOW & EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS***

**BEFORE THE MIRANDA WARNINGS,  
YOU LAWFULLY CAN AND SHOULD:**

- If approached by a police officer, ask if you are free to leave; if yes, walk away immediately. If approached at home, stay inside.
- Refuse to answer all questions except about your identity.
- Refuse to consent to any search or home entry unless shown a warrant.
- Refuse to admit to anything or to explain anything.
- Refuse to take any sobriety or other tests or give evidence.
- Demand to have a lawyer present when questioned.

**IF STOPPED BY POLICE, BEFORE ANY ARREST:**

- **DO:** Be calm, polite, and keep your hands visible at all times.
- **DO:** Identify yourself fully and agree to come to court
- **DO:** Tell the officer you will talk only about your identity and a court date without a lawyer present. Exit your vehicle if directed to do so.
- **DO NOT:** Admit to anything, explain anything, or consent to any search.
- **DO NOT:** Take any sobriety test or other tests anywhere.
- **DO NOT:** Answer any questions except about your identity.
- **DO NOT:** Believe any statement that you will “help” yourself if you “cooperate”. Cooperating means giving up these rights and only helps the police by giving them evidence they will use against you. **Cooperation will cause your conviction.**

**IF ARRESTED:**

- **DO NOT RESIST.** You will be handcuffed, searched, and promptly taken to a judicial officer for bond. Identify yourself and agree to come to court.

**Say nothing else and call a lawyer immediately.**

No system of criminal justice can or should survive if it comes to depend for its continued effectiveness on the citizens’... unawareness of their Constitutional rights.

No system worth preserving should... fear that if an accused is permitted to consult with a lawyer he will become aware of and exercise these rights.

**US SUPREME COURT -1964  
ESCOBEDO v. ILLINOIS**