



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: RECORDING THE POLICE

Your Right to Take Video & Photographs

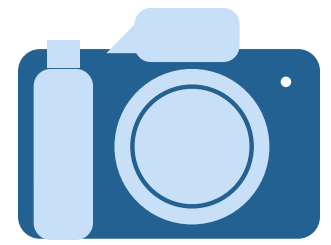
- When in outdoor public spaces where you are lawfully present, you have the right to capture any image that is in plain view. That includes pictures and videos of federal buildings, transportation facilities (including airports), and police officers.
- When you are on private property, the property owner sets the rules about taking photographs or videos. If you disobey, the owner can order you off the property and have you arrested for trespassing if you do not comply.
- Police should not order you to stop taking pictures or video. Under no circumstances should police demand that you delete your photographs or video.
- Police officers may order citizens to cease activities that are truly interfering with legitimate law enforcement operations. In general, a court will trust a police officer's judgment about what is "interfering" more than yours. So if a police officer orders you to stand back, do so.
- If an officer says he/she will arrest you if you continue to use your camera, in most circumstances it is better to put the camera away and call the ACLU for help, rather than risking arrest.
- Generally, police officers may not confiscate or demand to view your photographs or video without a warrant.
- If you are arrested, police may only scrutinize the contents of your phone with a search warrant. In addition, if police have a reasonable, good-faith belief that your phone contains evidence of a crime committed by someone other than police themselves, it is possible that courts may approve the seizure of a camera in some circumstances.

Using a Video Recorder (Including Cell Phones) With Audio Capacity

- You have a right to capture images in public places, but you don't always have a right to record what people say. Connecticut law makes it illegal to record private conversations without the consent of all parties to the conversation. Conversations with police in the course of their duties are likely not private conversations, but many other things you may record on a public street are, such as two people quietly conversing away from others.
- You have the right to videotape and audiotape police officers performing official duties in public. That means you can record an officer during a traffic stop, during an interrogation, or while he or she is making an arrest.
- You can record people protesting or giving speeches in public.
- Connecticut law makes it illegal to record telephone calls without the permission of all parties to the conversation.

(more information on back)

If You Are Stopped or Detained for Taking Photographs or Videos



- Always remain polite and never physically resist a police officer.
- If stopped for photography, ask if you are free to go. If the police officer says no, then you are being detained, something a police officer cannot do without reasonable suspicion that you have or are about to commit a crime or are in the process of doing so. Until you ask to leave, your being stopped is considered voluntary under the law and is legal.
- If you are detained, politely state that you believe you have the right to take pictures or video and that you do not consent to the officer looking through or deleting anything on your camera. But if the officer reaches for your camera or phone, do not resist. Simply repeat that you do not consent to any search or seizure.

Taking photographs and videos of things that are plainly visible from public spaces is your constitutional right. That includes federal buildings, transportation facilities, and police and government officials carrying out their duties.

**IF YOU THINK YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED,
CONTACT THE ACLU OF CONNECTICUT.**



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The American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, non-profit membership organization that defends, promotes and preserves individual rights and liberties under the U.S. and Connecticut constitutions.