

WHAT TO DO IF I AM STOPPED BY A MEMBER OF THE GARDAÍ








A PRACTICAL TOOL BY:

 Irish Council for
Civil Liberties
FOR ALL OUR RIGHTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.





 inar
IRISH NETWORK AGAINST RACISM

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO...

-  be treated with respect and dignity.
-  remain silent after you have given your name and address.
-  be told why you are being stopped.
-  be told why you are being arrested.
-  have your rights explained to you and be given a notice of rights on arrival at the Garda station.
-  ask for your next of kin to be informed that you are in Garda custody.
-  ask that your national embassy is informed that you are in Garda custody.
-  ask to talk to a lawyer before you are interviewed by the Gardaí and to have the lawyer sit in the interview with you. This will be free if you cannot afford it. You generally have the right to remain silent during the interview.
-  ask to be seen by a medical doctor if you feel unwell.
-  ask for the help of a sign language interpreter if you are deaf and/or a language interpreter if you are unable to speak or understand the English language well.
-  apply to a judge for free legal aid (a lawyer to represent you for free), if you have been charged with a criminal offence and are due to appear in court.

THE GARDAÍ HAVE POWERS TO:

-  Ask you to stop, even while driving. You must always comply with this request. If you are driving, you must stop as soon as it is safe to do so.
-  Search you without your consent, but only if a Garda member has a reasonable suspicion that you are involved in or about to be involved in a crime, or you have an unlawful object (e.g., a weapon, illegal drugs or something stolen) in your possession. They must inform you of the specific crime they suspect you are involved in before they search you.
-  Arrest you if they suspect you of committing a particular criminal offence. At the time of your arrest, you should be informed of the reason(s) for the arrest and your rights should be explained to you, in a language that you understand.
-  Use reasonable force to carry out an arrest. Only the most minimal amount of force can be used to achieve the arrest. You should not resist arrest as you may be charged with an additional offence.

This information should not be taken as a substitute for legal advice.

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USEFUL

CONTACTS

GARDA SÍOCHÁNA OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION (GSOC)

Tel: 0818 600 800
Email: info@gsoc.ie
www.gardaombudsman.ie

You can make a complaint about a crime or misconduct by a Garda member to the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) within one year of the incident, but only if you are the person affected.

IRISH NETWORK AGAINST RACISM (INAR)

Tel: 01 889 7110
Email: info@inar.ie
www.inar.ie
www.iReport.ie

Network of anti-racism organisations which aims to work collectively to highlight and address racism in Ireland. INAR also collects, analyses, and publishes data of racist incidents in Ireland.

Check the list of INAR members to find an organisation near you. You can report racist incidents using www.iReport.ie.

HOTLINE.IE

Tel: 01 294 5280
Email: report@hotline.ie
www.hotline.ie

Irish national centre combatting illegal content online. You can confidentially and anonymously report suspected illegal content, including incidents of racism and xenophobia, to Hotline.ie.

THE LEGAL AID BOARD

Tel: 01 646 9644
Email: cla@legalaidboard.ie
www.legalaidboard.ie

Independent, publicly funded organisation providing services that include civil legal aid and advice and the administration of legal aid schemes connected with criminal matters.

IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY COMMISSION (IHREC)

Tel: 01 858 9601
Email: info@ihrec.ie
www.ihrec.ie

Ireland's national human rights and equality institution. IHREC has an information service and may be able to provide legal advice on cases of discrimination.

CRIME VICTIMS' HELPLINE

Free Phone: 116 006
Text: 085 133 7711
Email: info@crimevictimshelpline.ie
www.crimevictimshelpline.ie

A national support service for victims of crime in Ireland. View their Crime Victims Rights' booklet on their website for more information about specific rights.



CITIZENS INFORMATION

Tel: 0818 074 000 (Citizens Information Phone Service)
www.citizensinformation.ie

A one-stop Irish Government website that provides information on your rights in Ireland.

The Citizens Information Phone Service can also help if you have any questions about your rights.

You can also visit your local Citizens Information Centre for information, advice and advocacy. The website lists all the centres around the country.

PAVEE POINT TRAVELLER & ROMA CENTRE

Tel: 01 878 0255
Email: info@pavee.ie
www.paveepoint.ie

A national organisation which works to improve the quality of life, living circumstances, status, and participation of Traveller and Roma communities.

IRISH COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES (ICCL)

Tel: 01 912 1640
Email: info@iccl.ie
www.iccl.ie
www.InfoVictims.ie

Monitors, educates and campaigns to protect human rights for everyone including ethnic minority communities. You can learn more about your rights in the criminal justice system here: <https://www.iccl.ie/your-rights/#criminal> You can find further information about victims' rights prepared by ICCL at www.InfoVictims.ie



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

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