

## About the Commission



"The Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations exists to provide equity and opportunities to impact communities throughout the State of

## About NOBLE



To ensure equity in the administration of justice in the provision of public service to all communities, and to serve as the conscience of law enforcement by being

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### Illinois Commission on Diversity

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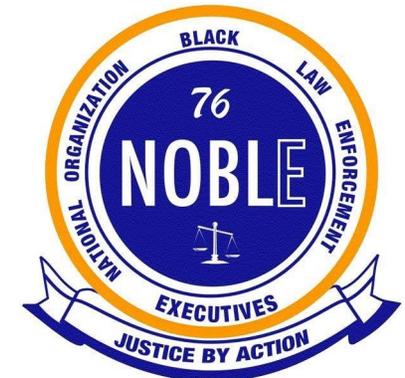
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**Police and Youth  
Interactions—**

**in partnership with**





# Know What to Do!

Interactions by police and youth have spurred intense media scrutiny. Police play an important role in the criminal justice system and proper interactions with the youth are the responsibility of both!

**By far the most important actions you can take is to follow the orders of the police, *even if you do not agree!***

**What to do if approached by the police, either walking, in a car or at your home:**

- Stay calm and listen.
- Keep your hands visible and do not reach for anything unless told to do so by the police.
- If asked to produce identification, you should do so.
- Do not argue or interfere with the police, and do not run!
- You do have rights that will be covered elsewhere in this brochure.
- At the time you are confronted by the police, it is not the time to argue, resist or cause any action that may escalate the situation.
- The police are assessing you and your reactions and may be lawfully justified to take action to protect themselves and others.
- The police can approach and talk

**What are my rights?**

- The police can stop you and question you if they believe that you may be a witness or a suspect to a crime.
- In what is called a "Terry Stop" the police stop and question you if they suspect you have or about to commit a crime.
- The police may not search you on a "Terry Stop" unless they believe you have a weapon. **Do not give them a reason to believe you do!**
- You do not have to talk with the police and you may ask for a lawyer at anytime. However, this may raise suspicion. If you have done nothing wrong it may be in your best interest to talk with them.
- If the police ask if they can search you, your car, or your home, you have a right to refuse. The police may have reason to search without your permission but they may ask for your cooperation anyway. **Do not argue about the search at that time!**
- On a car stop, the police may ask you for your driver's license and proof of insurance and you must provide them.
- You have a right not to talk with the police and if you are arrested,

they must read your "Miranda" rights to you. You may choose to speak with them or not.

- You may ask for a lawyer and the police must stop questioning you.

**What do I do if I feel my rights are violated?**

- Police agencies have a complaint process that can be effective in investigating potential violations.
- You should call or visit the police department and ask how you file a complaint against an employee.
- Most police agencies will have a supervisor speak with you to attempt to understand what your complaint is. They may have a legitimate reason that may be explained to you.
- If you are not satisfied you may advise them that you want to sign a complaint. Many police agencies have forms that you may take with you and send back to the police department. Many police agencies have these forms and explanations of rights on their web site.
- Depending on what state you live, you may be required to not only sign the complaint, but also have it attested to.
- The complaint investigation may take several weeks to complete due to applicable laws and