

# Atlanta Citizen Review Board



**CONTACT WITH  
LAW ENFORCEMENT**





**The police  
stopped me, now  
what?**

- Stay calm.
- Control your responses.
- Protect your rights.
- Remember, respect commands respect.
- Report misconduct; we have your back!



# Why protect your Rights



The importance of protecting your rights is most often seen after you have been charged when your defense is protecting you from improper police action.

Silence before being charged preserves your ability to make a defense and prevents you from saying something that may be misunderstood or used against you in court.

Protects you from searches, arrests, and detentions that lack a legal basis.



What you need  
to know



### 3 Types of Law Enforcement Interactions

**Consensual**  
**Investigative Stop**  
**Arrest**

# Consensual

Officer's words and conduct are important.

You **FREELY** engage with the officer.

You are not detained.

You are free to go.

You do not have to answer any questions.

You do not have to consent to a pat down or search.

Keep hands visible.

Do not run.

## Ask Yourself:

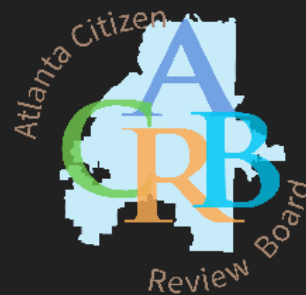
How did the officer's words and conduct make you feel?

Did you feel free to go? Did you feel intimidated?

Was your path blocked?

Did you feel free to not speak to the officer?

When the officer was speaking to you, did it feel like a request or demand?



# Investigative

## Based on reasonable suspicion.

Officer is conducting an investigation based on reasonable suspicion.

Reasonable suspicion is when an officer has a basis for a stop that is supported by specific and explainable facts.

You are detained, not free to go.

You do not have to answer questions.

You do not have to consent to a search.

You may be patted down for weapons (outside of clothing).

You may need to identify yourself.

Miranda Rights not given.

**Important considerations:** number of officers involved, officer's language and tone (words), demand over request (words) displaying weapon, physical touching (actions)





# Arrest

## Based on probable cause.

You are restrained.

You are not free to go.

You will be searched.

You do not have to answer questions.

Miranda Rights apply if you are asked questions pertaining to the reasons for the arrest.

Do not resist.

Do not run.

**Important considerations:** number of officers involved, officer's language and tone (words), demand over request (words) displaying weapon, physical touching (actions)



## Key Points

What is occurring or has occurred will give you an idea of the type of stop that is occurring.

The **officer's words and actions are important clues** to determining what type of stop is occurring.

Protect your rights by knowing and exercising your rights.

Ask, "Am I free to leave?"

You do not have to consent to searches.

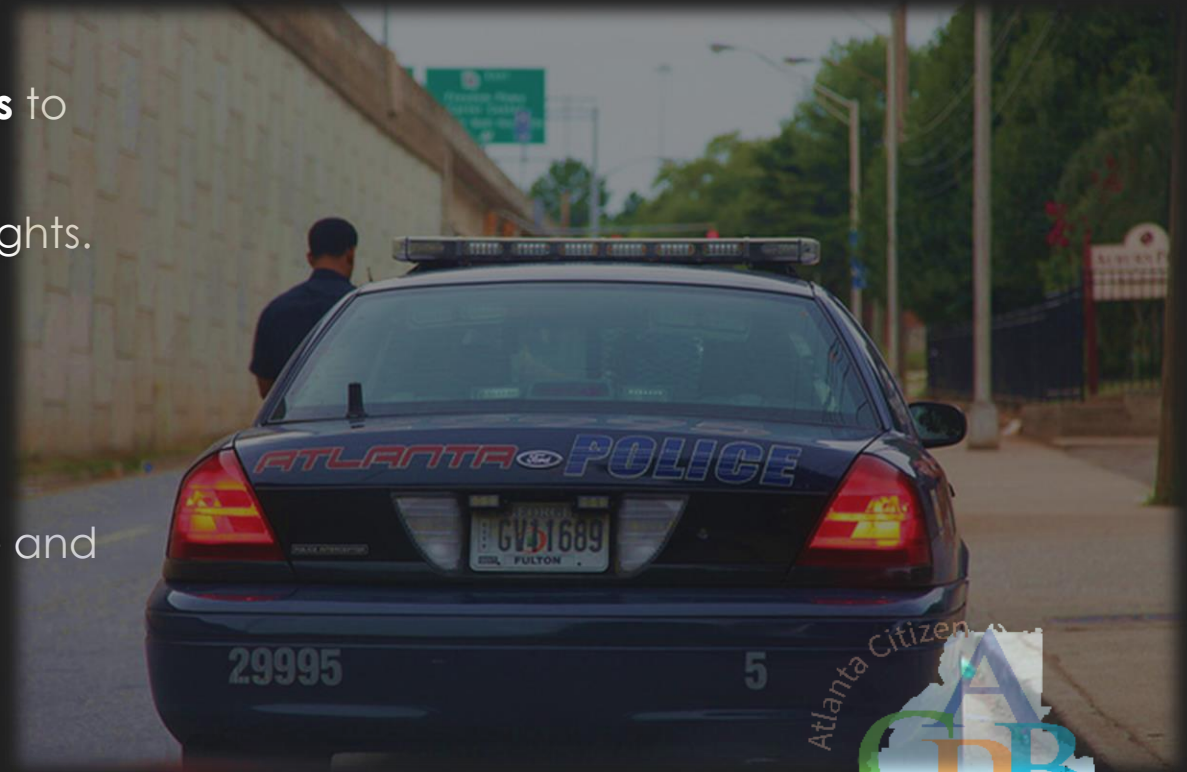
You do not have to answer questions.

You may ask for a supervisor and the officer's name and badge number.

Do not resist!

Do not run!

**Being respectful is not weakness!**





## Caution!

What you say and do will create a response.

Exercising your rights is not a license to act out.

Protecting your rights may cause a delay but preserves your rights.

Exercising your rights does not mean that you will be released or that the officer will not search you or your belongings.

There are exceptions that allow officers to take certain action.

With rights, come responsibilities. Just as with officers' authority, come accountability.



# Remember: You have options!

- Minimize the contact or increase the contact.
- Try to win the argument on the street or file a complaint with the ACRB.
- Do nothing about how you were treated or **take back your power, file a complaint and be heard.**
- Fight, run, and face more charges/injuries or comply while exercising your rights.
- Remain safe to tell the story or they tell their story.

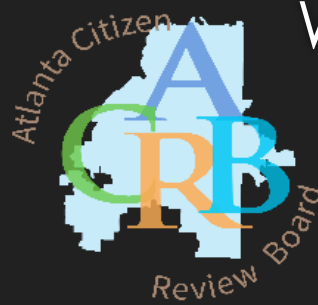


WRONG

DECISION

RIGHT

CHOICE



Want more information about knowing your rights and interactions with the police?

Request a Know Your Rights Training.

**Call: 404-865-8622**

Email: [acrb@atlantaga.gov](mailto:acrb@atlantaga.gov)

**We are here to serve you!**

Investigations

Mediation

Education

**Knowledge  
is Power!**



The Atlanta Citizen Review Board is a proud agency of the City of Atlanta.



**Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB)**

CITY OF ATLANTA

City Hall Tower, Suite 9100

55 Trinity Avenue, SW


Atlanta, GA 30303


Phone: (404) 865-8622

Fax: (404) 546-8401

E-mail: [acrb@atlantaga.gov](mailto:acrb@atlantaga.gov)

[www.acrbgov.org](http://www.acrbgov.org)

 [www.facebook.com/AtlantaCitizenReviewBoard](https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaCitizenReviewBoard)

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