

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

PROTESTING DURING THE 2018 SUPER BOWL

Minneapolis will be hosting the 2018 Super Bowl this year. The ten-day event will start on January 26. The Super Bowl is considered a National Special Security Event (NSSE) by the Department of Homeland Security. Due to this classification, protests and demonstrations will be restricted in certain areas. You should ask the City of Minneapolis about any permits and licenses necessary for demonstrations that block traffic. You can find information at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/visitors/SuperBowl.

Additionally, with over a million tourists expected to visit the Twin Cities, an increase in policing and security is expected. Before engaging in protest, please take into consideration any personal circumstances that could put you in a risky situation when interacting with federal or local law enforcement.

Learn more about your right to protest by visiting www.aclu-mn.org.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A PROTESTOR

You have a constitutional right to engage in peaceful protests in “traditional public forums” such as streets, sidewalks, or parks. But the government can impose narrowly drawn “time, place and manner” restrictions on those protests. While the city can impose reasonable restrictions to promote security and public safety, it generally cannot restrict a speaker or group based on the content of their speech.

Generally, you have the right to distribute literature, hold signs, and collect petition signatures on sidewalks or in front of government buildings as long as you do not disrupt other people, force passersby to accept leaflets, or obstruct traffic and passersby.

The First Amendment protects drumming, dancing, singing, and chanting, as well as street performers, mimes, and puppeteers.

IF YOUR RIGHTS WERE VIOLATED DURING A PROTEST, CONTACT THE ACLU-MN BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ACLU-MN.ORG AND FILLING OUT AN ONLINE COMPLAINT FORM.

IF YOU ARE STOPPED, QUESTIONED, OR ARRESTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

LIMITS ON YOUR FREE SPEECH

You can be arrested for speech that is not protected by the First Amendment, including:

- Threats or terroristic language
- Language that incites violence or provokes unlawful behavior
- Knowingly false derogatory statements about public officials
- Harassment

During a protest, you can be arrested if you:

- Interfere with another's use of public or private property
- Interfere with a lawful order by a law enforcement officer
- Violate noise laws
- Block vehicular or pedestrian traffic without a permit, or any public right-of-way or public entrance
- Intentionally conceal your identity by means of a robe, mask, or other disguise, unless for religious beliefs or for entertainment, protection from weather, or medical treatment

The First Amendment does not protect demonstrators who engage in civil disobedience — peaceful, but unlawful, forms of protest.

While you are not responsible for de-escalating law enforcement, the following are suggestions for managing risks when interacting with law enforcement:

- Stay calm. Don't get into an argument with law enforcement.
- Keep your hands where law enforcement can see them.
- Don't touch any law enforcement officer.
- Don't tell the law enforcement that you're going to file a complaint.

Law enforcement may stop and detain you if they suspect that you have committed, are committing or are about to commit a crime. If you are questioned or detained:

- Ask if you are under arrest or free to leave. If arrested, you have a right to know why.
- Law enforcement are able to frisk and "pat down" your outer clothing, **but make it clear that you do not consent to further search.**
- Don't talk about the incident. Anything you say or do can be used against you.
- Don't run. Don't resist, even if you believe you are innocent.
- Ask for the officers' badge and patrol car numbers.
- Write down everything you remember as soon as you can.
- If you are injured, take photos as soon as possible, but get medical attention first.

If you are arrested or taken to a police station:

- At that point, it is against the law to conceal your identity from law enforcement.
- You have the right to remain silent and to talk to a lawyer. Don't say anything without a lawyer.
- **Ask for a lawyer immediately.** If you can't afford a lawyer, you are entitled to a free, court-appointed lawyer.
- Ask law enforcement to contact a family member or friend. Anything you say over the phone at the precinct may be recorded or listened to, so do not discuss your case.
- Do not make any decisions in your case until you have talked with a lawyer.
- You must be produced before a judge no more than 36 hours after the arrest. The 36 hours does not include the day of the arrest, weekends or legal holidays.
- A judge must make a probable cause determination on the arrest's validity within 48 hours of the arrest.

Additional information:

- Unless you are suspected of a crime, law enforcement can't lawfully require you to identify yourself or produce identification. Law enforcement are not entitled to arrest you for failing to identify yourself, but they often do.
- Blanket searches of bags at demonstrations are lawful only if there is a potential threat. If you do not wish to have your bag searched, you should be allowed to leave the area.