

A GUIDE FOR NAVIGATING ARRESTS



THE INITIATIVE FOR
EQUAL RIGHTS



WHEN IS IT AN UNLAWFUL ARREST?



When there is no probable or reasonable cause.



When there is no arrest warrant.

WHEN IS IT NOT AN UNLAWFUL ARREST?



If you are suspected of committing a crime because of a complaint.



During or immediately after the commission of a crime.



If you are suspected of committing a crime upon investigation by the police.

WHO CAN ARREST YOU?



Police Officers and other Law Enforcement Agencies (e.g. Army officers, Civil Defense, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) etc.)



Private Individuals carrying out a Citizen Arrest (Only applicable in certain cases)

WHAT TO DO WHEN ARRESTED

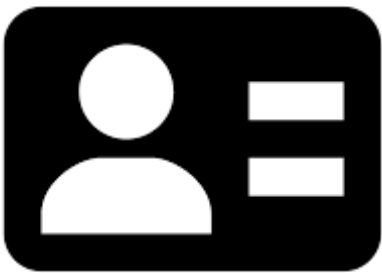


Do not attempt to physically resist arrest.



Ask for an arrest warrant or the reason you are being arrested or detained. Unless you are arrested while allegedly committing a crime, an arrest carried out without a warrant is illegal.

WHAT TO DO WHEN ARRESTED

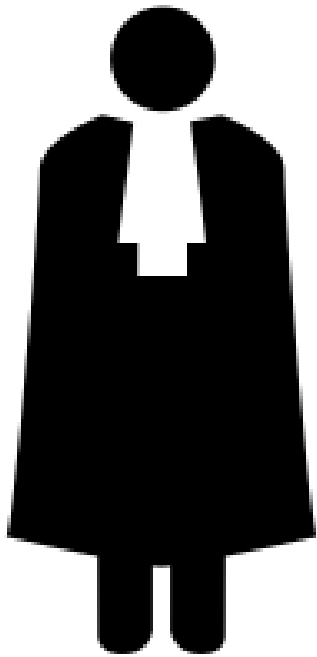


If the arresting officer(s) are not in uniform, ask them to identify themselves.



Ask the officer what station you are being taken to.

WHAT TO DO WHEN ARRESTED



Once you get to the station, contact your family or friends, and lawyer informing them that you have been arrested, and where you are being detained.

WHAT TO DO WHEN ARRESTED



When the police officer asks to take your statement, you do not have to give a statement as you have a right to silence.

However you may waive this right and opt to give a statement.

WHAT TO DO WHEN ARRESTED



You may write your statement yourself, and sign it; or you may have the officer take down the statement.

If the officer writes the statement, make sure it is read aloud to you before you sign it.

WHAT TO DO WHEN ARRESTED

If you feel that your right to personal liberty, or the right of someone you know has been violated, please contact your lawyer immediately.





To report a human rights violation to
you or someone around you based
on sexual orientation or gender
identity / expression:

Call our toll-free helpline
0800225584377

or

Call our paralegals on
+234 701 147 2241

or

+234 814 633 7128



THE INITIATIVE FOR
EQUAL RIGHTS

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
ADVOCACY**

**THE INITIATIVE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS
(TIERs)**

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