

INFORMED CITIZEN • FREE GUIDE

Know Your Rights

Stopped, questioned or arrested

Most people don't lack rights — they just don't know they have them. This quick guide lays out your basic rights when facing the police in Malaysia, so you stay calm and protected when it counts.



1 Stopped

2 Searched

3 Arrested

1 When police stop you

You only need to give these three personal details:



Name
Your full name



NRIC
IC number






Address
Where you live

For everything else you may stay silent — say: “I'll answer in court.”





🔍 **Officer not in uniform? You may ask to see their authority card before cooperating.**

2 When searched

-  **Women searched only by a policewoman**
A male officer may not body-search a woman.
-  **In a raid, they may search you/your bag without arrest**
but an Inspector-rank officer or above must be present.
-  **No law requires you to strip**
Any search demanding full nudity has no legal basis.

3 When arrested

Remember these four key rights:

-  **Know the reason**
Police must tell you why you're arrested. Failing to do so makes the arrest unlawful (confirmed by the courts).
-  **See your lawyer**
You have the right to consult a lawyer of your choice before questioning.
-  **Inform family**
You may tell a relative or friend that you've been arrested and where you are.
-  **24-hour limit**
Detention can't exceed 24 hours (excluding necessary travel); after that you must be brought before a Magistrate, who alone can order a remand.

In the moment, remember these three lines

1 “I'll give only my name, NRIC and address.”

只提供姓名、身份证号和地址

2 “I'll answer the rest in court.”

其余在庭上回答

3 “I want to see my lawyer.”

我要见我的律师

Important

This is legal information, not legal advice for your specific case. Stay calm and polite, and do not resist or use force — settle disputes in court. In an emergency, contact a lawyer or the Malaysian Bar's Legal Aid.

Informed Citizen • free civic education; core knowledge always free. Sources: Malaysian Bar “Red Book — The Police and Your Basic Rights” ; Federal Constitution Art. 5. Current as of June 2026; consult a lawyer for your specific case.