

Safely Dealing With Police

A Troubling Assessment

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Three Tier Justice

- 1) CEOs are protected (company may get fined)
- 2) Middle class can afford effective lawyers
- 3) Marginalized people have many problems
- This PowerPoint is for them
- News, entertainment, and social media keep us misinformed, glorify police, and protect power
- Most of us know something is wrong, but don't know what or why

Some Police Are Dangerous

- There are good and bad officers
- Hope for the best, prepare for the worst
- Trained to be very cautious and in control
- Trained to protect each other – not suspects
- Selectively enforce laws that criminalize us all
- Protected when they lie, mistreat the powerless, and violate rights
- Can quickly and easily destroy your life

Possible Harm From Cops, Court

- Physical – loss of freedom, injury, death
- Legal – criminal charges
- Emotional – trauma, abuse, PTSD
- Career loss – suspects and convicts often can't find work
- Financial – loss of work, property loss, legal fees
- Debt – massive court-ordered restitution
- Loss of voting rights

The Danger Is Real

- “mortality rate for men ... police use-of-force is deemed to be the sixth leading cause of death”
- See “Police Use of Fatal Force Identified as a Leading Cause of Death in Young Men” on www.rutgers.edu/news/police-use-fatal-force-identified-leading-cause-death-young-men
- USA has highest incarceration rate of G20 world powers per www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/sentencing-statistics/international-imprisonment-rates

Video Record Police

- Your best defense
- Helps to keep everyone safe and calm
- We have the 1st amendment right to record
- Cops often illegally prevent recording
- Start recording before pulling over your car
- Ideally use ACLU app to record video online in case your phone gets destroyed
- Police videos are kept from most people

Never Consent To Search

- Allowing a search will never help you
- It can only inconvenience and imprison you
- Permission to search is permission to scatter your property
- If previous owner left hidden weed – you're busted
- If cops plant evidence – you're busted
- Never interfere with an illegal search – they will hurt you

Don't Talk With Police

- Too dangerous to have a reasonable conversation
- Too many laws, even sensible things are illegal
- Police may lie to trap you
- One loose comment and you're off to jail
- Remember, some cops just love to arrest people
- Some officers are nice, but it's still too risky

The Only Things To Say

- Sorry officer, I will not answer any questions before consulting with my lawyer
- I do not consent to any search
- Officer, am I being detained?
- You can not legally demand my name if I am not being detained, and you can not legally detain me without reasonable suspicion of crime. That is per Terry vs Ohio. What crime do you suspect me of based on what evidence?

Respect Always Helps

- Be decent to other people, even those who don't deserve it
- Insulting people only makes them meaner

Stay Cool, Move Slowly

- Cops threaten people with guns, handcuffs on your wrists, multiple officers interrogating you, threatening hand holding your arm, overwhelming force, bright light in your eyes, finger in your face, and the courts that say they can do no wrong.
- Some officers try to provoke you physically, verbally, and emotionally – happened to me
- They want you to react so they can justify attacking
- Be still, be chill, don't move, don't respond

If You're Mistreated

- Live to see another day
- Don't argue with people who are free to hurt you
- Report abuse, but don't expect much
- You can sue if you have enough money
- ACLU is too busy to help most people
- News media usually disinterested
- Social media is your friend
- Even large protests are only marginally effective

Ask Yourself

- Why do SD cops only get 3 months of training?
- Why is it legal for cops to lie?
- Why is it impractical to sue for civil rights abuses?
- Why does qualified immunity even exist?
- Why do politicians give unwavering support to law enforcement?
- What is really going on?

Summary

- It's tragic we need lessons in dealing with police
- That's not how democracy should work
- I guess that means the USA is no democracy
- “We the people” have work to do

Enjoy Nature (Wyoming)

