



JUSTICE IN JACKSON - - Eliminating Racial Profiling in Tennessee - -

The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee (ACLU-TN) is collecting information about the extent of racial profiling in Jackson. Specifically, we are interested in learning more about the local police practice of stopping, interviewing, photographing and completing "field cards" on people who are stopped while standing and walking in the community. To share your story with ACLU-TN please complete the other side of this form and return it to ACLU-TN.

RACIAL PROFILING IS ILLEGAL.

Racial profiling occurs when the way a person looks (their race or ethnicity) instead of what they are doing (driving recklessly) becomes the primary reason for being stopped by the police. Unfortunately, law enforcement officials often wrongly believe that certain groups of people are more likely to engage in criminal activity than others.

RACIAL PROFILING IS UNFAIR AND DANGEROUS.

Police officers can legally stop someone if they have reason to suspect that he or she is engaged in criminal activity. Even though studies repeatedly show that race is not an appropriate indicator of illegal activity, African-Americans are far more likely to be stopped, questioned, searched and arrested than their white counterparts. Such prejudicial action by law enforcement officials wreaks havoc on people's lives and can lead a community to question whether its police department is capable of applying the law in an unbiased manner.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE STOPPED?

1. Know your rights. You are not required to give permission to police officers to search you or your car. You are also not required to answer questions asked by the police. At any point you can inquire if you are free to leave. Be aware that choosing to exercise your rights does not mean the police will follow the law or be respectful of your rights.
2. Don't argue. The police may try to intimidate you. Responding politely when exercising your rights can help avoid raising suspicion and prevent a confrontation.
3. Get the names of the officers. Be sure to get the badge numbers, squad car number and license plate number of officers. Make a note of the time of day and location of the stop.
4. File a complaint. If you feel you have been mistreated you can contact a civil rights organization for information about how to file a complaint. To file a complaint with ACLU-TN, please write a letter describing your situation or question and send it to ACLU-TN, Attn: Intake, P.O. Box 120160, Nashville, TN, 37212. Allow 3 to 5 weeks for a response.

PLEASE NOTE: Most legal claims have a time limit, meaning you must file a complaint within a given timeframe. Writing to ACLU-TN does not extend any time limits applying to your claim nor is it a guarantee of legal representation. This flyer should not to be considered legal advice.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR STORY

If you or someone you know has been stopped by the police and you believe the stop may have been the result of racial profiling, please fill out the following information and mail it to ACLU-TN (see address below). This form is also available online at www.aclu-tn.org.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect data to persuade local law enforcement and elected officials to disallow the use of racial profiling as a law enforcement tool. The information you provide in this survey will remain confidential unless we receive permission from you to share your name and your story. We may combine your information with others to demonstrate the practice and frequency of racial profiling in Jackson. Completing this form does not guarantee a reply from ACLU-TN, nor is it the same as filing a complaint. To file a complaint, please see Step 4 on the previous page.

Name of person stopped: _____

Address: _____

Phone: ____ (____) _____ Email: _____

When was the stop? _____

Where was the stop? _____

What about this stop made you think it was racial profiling?

Name of person completing this form (if other than the person stopped) _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this form to:

**ACLU-TN, P.O. Box 120160, Nashville, TN 37212
615-320-7142**