ACLU Tennessee



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

FEDERAL FORCES & NATIONAL GUARD IN MEMPHIS

President Trump has deployed federal forces and troops to Memphis.

This show of force seeks to intimidate communities that oppose his authoritarian agenda. No emergency justifies the action. Trump has ordered this federal force to perform "hypervigilant policing" and "large-scale saturation," which increases the risk that they will violate the constitutional rights of Memphians.

In Los Angeles and Washington D.C., similar deployments led to violations of protest rights, restrictions on press, excessive force, and racial profiling. The ACLU has successfully challenged these abuses and will continue to do so. We are also sharing resources to help our neighbors Know Your Rights.

YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION



You have the right to remain silent. Say out loud if you choose to remain silent.



You have the right to refuse a search of yourself, car, or home. Say: "I do not consent to a search." But do not obstruct if an officer searches anyway.



You have the right to leave if you are not detained. Ask if you are free to go. If told you are not detained, you can calmly leave.



You have the right to a lawyer. If arrested, ask for one immediately.



Your constitutional rights apply regardless of immigration status.



During interactions with law enforcement, keep hands visible and provide honest answers if you choose to speak.

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IF ASKED ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS



You do not have to answer questions about your birthplace, citizenship, or how you entered the country.



If you choose to answer, do NOT provide false information or false documents.



Only show valid immigration documents if requested by a federal agent.

IF YOU SEE POLICE OR MILITARY ACTION



You can film or photograph, but stay about 25 feet away.
That's about 9 big steps.



You have the right to ask officers for their name, badge numbers, and agency.



Record details calmly and inform people of their rights.

PROTECTIONS UNDER THE CONSENT DECREE

The Kendrick Consent Decree is a landmark 1978 court order that further protects First Amendment rights and prevents the Memphis Police Department (MPD) from surveilling political activity without cause.



MPD cannot create files on you for lawful activism or use undercover informants without suspicion of criminal activity.



Any investigations tied to First Amendment activity must be approved at the highest level with strict time limits.



If your rights have been violated, click the link at the end of our KYR site to file a complaint: tinyurl.com/KYRMemphisGuard