

STOP & SEARCH



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Stop and Search – Know your Rights

You can be stopped and searched if an officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that you are carrying:

- drugs, weapons or stolen property; or
- items which could be used to commit a crime.

Police officers can stop and search you within a specific area without any reasonable grounds if it is believed that:

- serious violence could take place; or
- offensive weapons are being carried or have been used.

The police officer must always explain:

- why you are being stopped and searched
- what the police officer is looking for

- the law under which you are being searched; and
- your right to a receipt

You should always be given the name, identity number and station of the police officer searching you.

If you are being searched in relation to terrorism or are asked to remove more than an outer coat or jacket, you can ask to be searched by a police officer of the same sex.

You should always be treated fairly and with respect, if you feel this has not happened you can complain.

You can also complain if you believe you were treated differently because of your race, age, sexual orientation, gender, disability, religion or faith.

It will help if you keep the receipt that the police officer gave you.

Making sure people know and understand their rights when being stopped and searched is an important duty of the Police Authority.

We understand that being stopped and searched by police officers can be an uncomfortable experience but it's a valuable policing tool which helps to keep our communities safe.

When being stopped and searched

- *you must be treated fairly*
 - *you must be told why you are being searched*
 - *you do not have to give any personal information unless you have been arrested*
 - *stop and search is not an arrest – you won't get a criminal record*
 - *you can receive a copy of the stop and search form*
 - *you have the right to complain*
- To find out more information about your rights when being stopped and searched log on to www.tvpa.police.uk



Thames Valley
Police Authority

the authority behind the force

www.tvpa.police.uk

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