



Talking to Police

Identifying Yourself

Sometimes, even though you don't have to, it's a good idea to give the police your name and address. Use your common sense. Most of the time, according to the law, you do not have to give the police any information.

You only have to give police your name and address if:

1. you are under arrest;
2. you are driving a car. Passengers in the car do not have to give the police their names or addresses; or
3. a police officer is giving you a ticket (for breaking a city bylaw or any other law) or serving you an *appearance notice*.

The Right to Remain Silent

You have the right to remain silent. Except for polite conversation, it is best not to say anything to the police until you have spoken to a lawyer.

Fake ID

Don't ever give the police a wrong name and address, or fake ID. You could face serious charges.



What to say to police:

1. Be polite.
2. Do you want to leave? Ask: “Am I free to go?” If yes, then go.
3. If you are not free to go, ask: “Am I under arrest?” If yes, ask why.
4. If you are under arrest, say: “I want to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer.” Give your name and address if the police ask. Get the police officer’s badge number.
5. If you are not under arrest, but you can’t leave, ask why. Get the police officer’s badge number.

You have the right to remain silent, except where you must give the police your name and address.



CRIMCODE 129, 403

Undercover Police Officers

Undercover police officers are police officers who do not wear uniforms and pretend not to be police officers. They may dress like an inmate, if they are undercover in jail. They may dress like a homeless person. They may dress like a businessperson.

When police are in undercover investigations, they are allowed to:

- lie about being a police officer, no matter how many times you ask them directly “Are you a police officer?”;
- lie about their name, background, personal information – anything; and
- break the law (in some situations).

Undercover police officers are not allowed to ignore your rights.

Blowing a Police Officer’s Cover

If you know someone is an undercover police officer and you warn other people, you could be charged with a criminal offence.



Undercover Rights

Just because a police officer is in plainclothes or is undercover does not mean that he or she gives up any of the powers a regular police officer has. You also keep all of the rights you always have when dealing with the police. If a plainclothes or undercover police officer has stopped you, you still have the right to remain silent and the right to talk to a lawyer.

