



Citizen or Private Security Arrests

People who aren't police officers, including business owners, security guards, homeowners, or people on the street, can make arrests in some situations. They don't have the same arrest powers as police.

Members of the general public and security guards are the same. They can only arrest you if they actually see you commit an indictable or *hybrid offence* (see page 11 for definitions), or if they see you running away from the police. Unlike police, if they only have *reasonable grounds* to believe you broke the law, it's not enough. People who own property, or security guards protecting property,

can arrest you if they see you committing a crime related to their property.

People who own land can make rules you must follow to stay on their private property. Privately owned property includes some property that is open to the public, like malls, stores, restaurants and bars. If you don't follow the rules, the owner (or their guards) can ask

you to leave. If you don't leave, you become a trespasser and they may use reasonable force to remove you.

The Charter of Rights

The *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* covers arrests by private citizens. You have the right to remain silent and the right to a lawyer. You must be handed over to the police as soon as possible after your arrest.

