



# Introduction

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association is the oldest and most active civil liberties group in Canada. With the support of the Law Foundation of B.C., we have published this handbook to help you understand your rights and responsibilities when you are dealing with the police.

The police are responsible for enforcing the law. Try to be polite and friendly at all times. While they are deserving of respect and assistance, they must also respect your legal rights.

If you find yourself in a serious situation with police, a lawyer can help you figure out what happened and what you can do. There are lawyers who can meet with you for little or no cost. You can call them using the phone numbers on page 59.

This booklet has important information about how you can expect the police to act, and how you can respond if you feel the police do not act properly. There are cards on page 62 you can carry with you to remind you of your rights.

**USING THIS BOOK** In this book, light bulbs mark information that is especially helpful or interesting to know. Stop signs appear beside very important information. Yield signs warn you to use caution in the situations described.



**CRIMINAL CODE SECTION NUMBERS** At the bottom of each page, the *Criminal Code* section numbers related to the topic are listed beside the word CRIMCODE. For example: “CRIMCODE 135, 136” means sections 135 and 136 of the *Criminal Code* are important. You can find a copy of the most recent *Criminal Code* at most libraries.

**LEGAL WORDS** You may not know some of the words in this book. To help you, words in *italics* are explained on pages 60 and 61.