

Key Protections for Protestors

The following are recommendations to follow when protesting and observing law enforcement activity or engaging in mutual aid. The [ACLU](#) is a good source of additional advice.

1. **Remain peaceful.** Observe and document, but do not try to stop or impede officers.
2. **Do not make any physical contact** or threatening moves or be verbally aggressive towards officers.
3. While driving, drive safely, **obey all traffic laws and speed limits.** If following officers' vehicles in your vehicle, **stay far enough back that you will not hit them if they brake suddenly.**
4. On foot, stay far enough away from officers that the **officers would have to move in order to touch you (at least 8 feet).**
5. **Step back if officers tell you** to do so.
6. Record your own and others' interactions with federal officials. For the video, **narrate details** like location, the number of officers, and badge numbers. If officers become confrontational, **narrate what is happening** ("I am observing; I am moving back as you requested") **rather than arguing** with officials.
7. **Turn off biometric identification on your phone**, and if it is taken by law enforcement, state that you do not consent to a search. Be aware that even if you do not consent to a search, there is a substantial risk that your phone will be searched.
8. **Avoid** actions that reasonably can be understood as **warning individuals you know to be undocumented that an ICE enforcement effort is underway.** While warning people generally of the presence of law enforcement is protected under the First Amendment, warning individuals who are undocumented about immigration enforcement can be a federal crime. **For example, avoid warning specific individuals about ICE presence.** However, blowing a whistle in public space or holding up signs informing the general public of ICE presence should be protected activity.
9. Where communications are being done by shared community chats or via social media, recognize that such **communications are effectively public and are likely subject to surveillance.**
10. **Mutual aid arrangements** should be focused on **supporting all community members** in need of assistance due to fear of unlawful harassment and intimidation by federal law enforcement. No effort should be made to ascertain the immigration status of any participants.