

WALKING HOME FROM WORK

A few months ago, I was walking home from work with another friend. It was in the very early morning hours. Nobody on the streets. No cars on the road. As we walked, we suddenly realized a police car was following about fifty feet behind us. We tried not to pay too much attention, but when I glanced over my shoulder, the car was still there and getting even closer. I asked my friend, "What should we do?" My friend suggested that we walk faster since we were almost to the corner, where we can then turn to enter our apartment complex. As we started to walk faster, the police car sped up, turned on the car lights, and then pulled over next to us. The officer got out of the car and asked us to stop. The officer then asked, "What are you doing?" I was nervous. I did not understand. I did not speak English well. I looked at my friend for what to do next.

HOW TO INTERACT WITH THE POLICE IN THE U.S. GUIDED DISCUSSION WORKSHEET

Use the following worksheet to guide participants in understanding the material provided in the [How to Interact with the Police in the U.S.](#) video, fact sheet, or podcast. Providers may add additional statements and information based on client needs.

PART I: CATEGORIZE TIPS

After sharing the video, fact sheet, or podcast, provide participants with the different images on the following page. Ask participants to categorize images into "Do's" and "Don'ts" when interacting with police. Use this to review the following tips:

- Stay calm and control your emotions.
- Be respectful. Don't argue.
- Keep your hands visible and out of your pockets.
- Don't run or reach for anything suddenly.
- Stay in one place and be still.
- If you are in a vehicle, stay in the vehicle and keep your seatbelt fastened.
- Don't touch or stand too close to a police officer.
- Carry your I.D. and the phone number of someone who can help you, if needed.
- Ask if you are free to leave and, if so, depart calmly.

PART II: DISCUSSION

Depending on the group, ask participants the following discussion questions. The answers provided are based on the video, fact sheet, and podcast, but you may add to the list.

1. What are your rights if you encounter a police officer?
 - You have a legal right to an interpreter.
 - If you are accused of breaking a law and are arrested, you have the right to remain silent and talk to a lawyer before being questioned.
 - If you cannot afford a lawyer, the court will pay for one to represent you.
2. What do you do if you need an interpreter? *Time permitting, you may want to have participants practice reading the card provided on the back of the fact sheet.*
 - It's okay to say you don't understand.
 - **Ask first and receive permission** to provide the Refugee-Police Interaction Card, or recite the information on the card: I am a resettled refugee. I am in the United States legally. I speak _____ . I need an interpreter. Please call _____ .



"Do"

"Don't"

