

Your Basic Rights

- Whether or not you are a United States citizen, you have rights under the United States Constitution.
- You have the right to remain silent, and the right to say no to a search of you or your belongings.
- Police may detain you for questioning if the officer has reasonable suspicion that you have been involved in a crime.
- Police may pat down your clothing if they suspect a concealed weapon. But you do not have to consent to any further search of yourself, your belongings, your house or your car.

Homeless Camping in Oregon

- You can camp on private property with permission. Otherwise, trespass laws can be enforced against you.
- Camping on public property is prohibited under many city and county ordinances, and on state lands under state law.
- Law enforcement may remove homeless camps from public property under certain conditions.
- You have the right not to lose your property without a fair legal process.
- Law enforcement must
 - Post notice in English & Spanish at least 24 hours before removing camps.
 - Inform a local social service agency 24 hours before removing camps.
 - Store all personal property for at least 30 days.
 - Make stored property reasonably available to anyone claiming to own it.
- The 24-hour-notice requirement does not apply when
 - other illegal activities may be occurring at the camp, or
 - if there is an emergency or immediate danger.

Other Legal Issues

- **Panhandling:** You have the right to ask people for money, as long as you are respectful and not aggressive.
- **Vehicles:** Sleeping in your car is OK unless you are violating other traffic or parking laws.
- **Exclusion Zones:** Some cities have laws that allow law enforcement to exclude you from parks and other public places. You have the right to appeal exclusions.
- **Sidewalks:** Some cities have laws that regulate sidewalk use. You can find out more about local laws online or at your library.

To find a legal aid office near you:

Go to

www.oregonlawhelp.org

Getting your things back after a camp sweep

- Law enforcement must store personal property (other than junk or unsanitary items) for at least 30 days.
- If you are present at the camp when it is being swept, ask for a property receipt.
- If you know the law enforcement agency that swept your camp, call and ask where and when you can pick up your property.
- If you do not know the law enforcement agency, call local police and ask for assistance. A social service provider may also be able to help you.
- If you cannot recover your property and you think law enforcement may have violated the law, seek legal assistance as soon as possible.

This brochure is for general educational use only. It is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. If you have a specific legal question, you should contact an attorney. The information in this brochure is accurate as of November 2010. Many laws contain time limits to bring claims. If you believe your rights have been violated, you should seek legal help as soon as possible.

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Homeless in Oregon

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
