

What can happen in police-pedestrian encounters?

At different steps governing police-pedestrian encounters, police have different rights, and so do you.

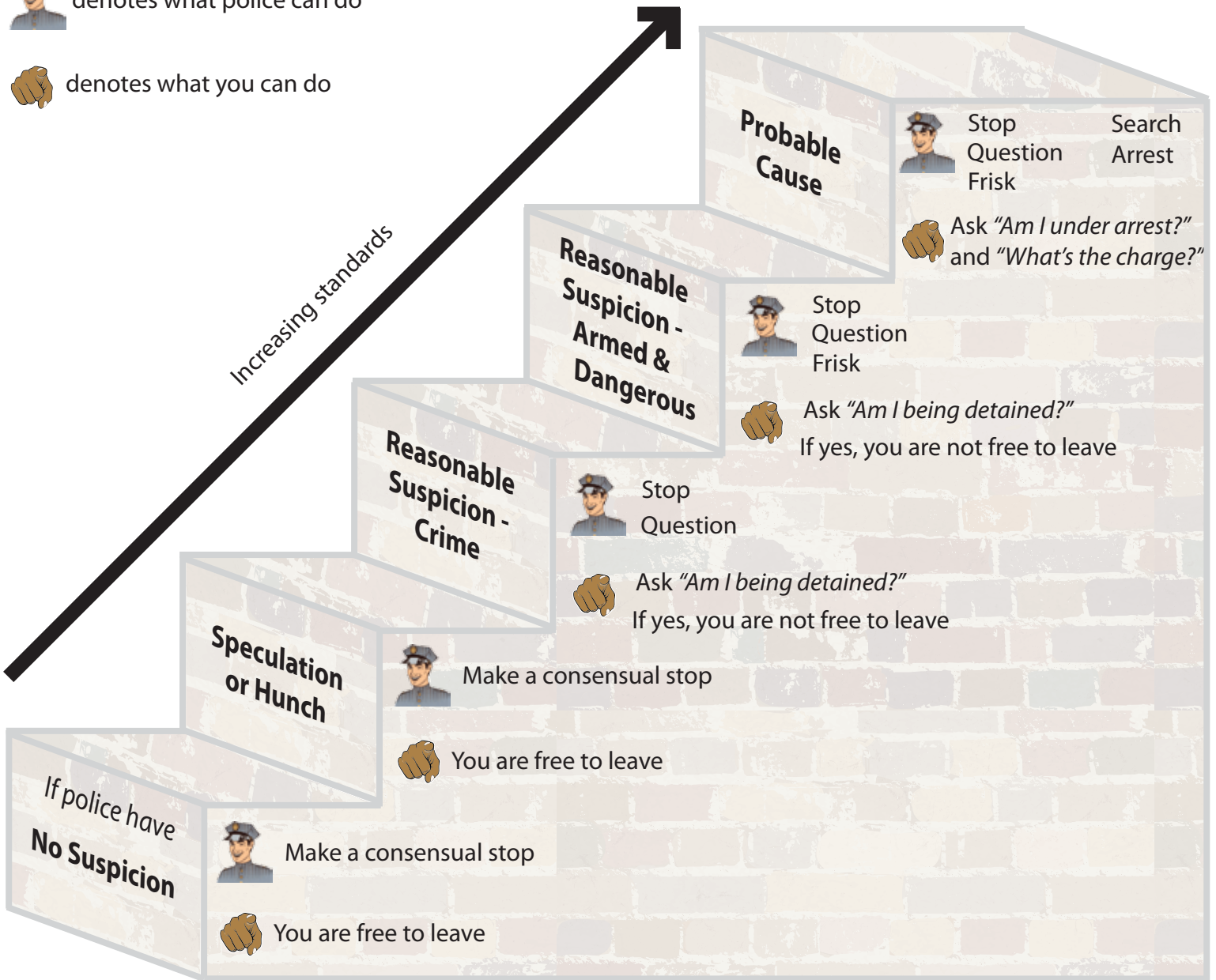


denotes what police can do



denotes what you can do

Increasing standards



Standards governing police encounters



suspicion or hunch: a feeling or guess based on intuition rather than facts

reasonable suspicion of crime: some specific and articulable facts that a person is involved in crime

reasonable suspicion armed and dangerous: some specific and articulable facts that a person is armed with a weapon and is dangerous

probable cause: enough information to reasonably believe the person has committed a crime

consent stop: Police can always stop you if you agree to be stopped. Therefore ask the police, "Am I free to leave?"

stop: a brief detention. Police can hold you for a reasonable amount of time

frisk: a pat down to the outer clothing to search for weapons only

search: more extensive than a frisk. Police can look in pockets, bags and containers for evidence of the alleged crime

arrest: A person is taken into police custody based on evidence of a crime



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