

# WHAT TO DO IF THE FBI OR POLICE CONTACT YOU FOR QUESTIONING

In the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings, the FBI and other law enforcement officers have been questioning people who might have known the suspects. Many people feel they have nothing to hide and want to be helpful by answering questions. It is still very important to understand what your rights are and what consequences can result from talking with the FBI. You are not being uncooperative by obtaining legal advice before answering questions. Here are some of your rights:

- **You are NOT REQUIRED to answer any questions and you have the right to consult with an attorney.** You always have the right to remain silent and not talk to police or FBI if you don't want to. You should write down the name, agency and telephone number of the person who calls or visits you. Even if you have answered some questions, you can stop and talk to a lawyer.

- If an FBI agent or police officer asks to speak to you, **you can tell him or her that you want to consult with an attorney first.** Asking to talk to your attorney does not mean you are refusing to cooperate. Your attorney can respond on your behalf to set up an interview if you choose to meet with agents.

- ANY information you give to an officer without an attorney, even if it seems harmless, can be used against you or someone else. Lying to a federal officer is a crime. **Remaining silent is NOT a crime.**

- **You are NOT required to allow the officer into your home without a warrant.** If an officer wants to enter your home, ask to see the warrant. If the officer does not have one, you do not have to let him in. But don't try to stop him if he forces his way in. Simply state that he does not have your permission to enter.

- **If the officer says that he has a warrant for your arrest, you have a right to see the warrant.** You must go with the officer, but you do not have to answer questions until you consult an attorney.

- **If you are detained, you should ask for an attorney and remain silent.**

***For more information see:***

<http://www.aclu.org/national-security/know-your-rights-when-encountering-law-enforcement>

**Or you can call the ACLU of Massachusetts at 617 482-3170.**

**ACLU of Massachusetts (617) 482-3170 [www.aclum.org](http://www.aclum.org)**

