



POLICE ABUSE OF POWER

**KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS**



TYPES OF ABUSE OF POWER

- Abusing official capacity for personal gain
- Brutality or violence towards individuals / communities
- Sexual assault by a police officer, whether the police officer is on or off duty



YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:



- Have your dignity respected and protected
- Not to be deprived of freedom arbitrarily
- Not to be detained without trial
- Be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources
- Not to be tortured in any way, or be treated in a cruel or inhumane manner
- Ask police officials for identification
- Take a photo and/or record the conversation with a cell phone



WHAT TO DO:

- If the abuse is in the form of physical violence and you are injured as a result, first seek medical assistance or call for help. Once you have received medical attention, ensure that you complete a J88 form. The J88 is a legal document that is compiled by a medical doctor or registered nurse, documenting injuries sustained by the victim in any circumstances where a legal investigation / process may follow.



WHAT TO DO:

- If you are taken to a police station, immediately report any physical abuse to the senior official in charge and ask to call a family member, friend or lawyer.
- Whatever form the abuse takes, make certain that you memorise as much detail as possible about the date, time, place, vehicle registration number, names of officials and witnesses



WHAT TO DO:

- Contact a legal practitioner or one of the civil society organisations mentioned below as soon as possible for assistance with possible criminal and civil action.



IMPORTANT



It is best to not confront police with an assertion of your rights if you believe that it will aggravate the situation, or if you fear for your physical safety. It is advisable to remain calm and ensure that you memorise as much information as possible, and thereafter lay a complaint with the channels that are provided below.



REPORT THE INCIDENT TO:

Independent Policing Investigative Directorate

Website: www.ipid.gov.za

Email: complaints@ipid.gov.za

Tel: 012 399 0000

Provincial contacts:

Eastern Cape: 082 592 9888

Free State: 063 225 6081

Gauteng: 076 455 5178

Limpopo: 078 871 4811

KwaZulu-Natal: 079 895 2741

Mpumalanga: 072 881 4196

Northern Cape: 064 624 8203

North West: 078 163 6874

Western Cape: 021 941 4800



REPORT THE INCIDENT TO:

South African Police Services National Complaints Centre

Email: complaintsnodalppoint@saps.gov.za

Tel: 0800333177

Corruption Watch

Website: www.corruptionwatch.org.za

WhatsApp: 0720135569



REPORT THE INCIDENT TO:

Public Interest Legal Support Hotline

Tel: 066 076 8845

Wits Law Clinic

Website: <https://www.wits.ac.za/lawclinic/>

Tel: 011 717 8562

Office of the Public Protector

Website: <http://www.pprotect.org/>

Tel: 0800 112 040



REPORT THE INCIDENT TO:

South African Human Rights Commission

Provincial contacts:

Eastern Cape: 067 968 8921

Free State: 076 038 4507

Gauteng: (011) 877 3750

Limpopo: 071 566 5188

KwaZulu-Natal: 071 446 2333

Mpumalanga: 078 670 4360

Northern Cape: 079 439 5557

North West: 060 790 1476

Western Cape: 073 075 2278