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What are your rights when under arrest?

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You have the right to remain silent.

When you get arrested, the police will ask you questions, but you are not obliged to answer. Talking to the police is stressful and you might say the wrong thing. Instead, you can say,

“I’m waiting to speak to my lawyer.”

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You have the right to know the reason for your arrest.

The moment the police arrest you,
they must tell you why you're under arrest.

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Will the police speak to me in English?

Many officers in Quebec can speak English.
However, some don't, and by law, they aren't required to.

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What should I say?

Use simple language. Even if they don’t speak English,
the officers should understand phrases like **“Why am I under arrest?”**
and **“I don’t understand.”**

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You have the right to a lawyer.

After you've been arrested, you can talk to a lawyer who speaks English.
It's wise to get a lawyer, even for minor offences.
If you're under 18, you can also call a parent or close relative.

Do lawyers cost money?

Minors can hire a lawyer for free through Quebec's legal aid services.
Adults with low income are also eligible for legal aid. Simply ask the police for the phone number.

Can I hire a private lawyer?

Yes. If you wish to hire a private lawyer, the police must assist you in finding one
(for example, by giving you access to the Internet or a phone book).

Find a legal aid lawyer in Quebec

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What is detention?

If the police have a reasonable suspicion that you committed a crime, they can keep you in custody for a short time.
If they have reason to believe you're carrying a weapon, drugs, or open alcohol, they can search you.

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If you feel you have been subject to **racial profiling, discrimination, or mistreatment as a result of your race or ethnicity** during your interaction with the police, you can obtain support

here

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Not sure if you're being detained?

Ask the officers, **"Am I free to go?"**

If they say yes, you can choose to walk away.

For further information regarding your rights and responsibilities on a variety of topics

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