

How to Flex Your Rights on the Metro

Tip #1: Calmly Refuse to Be Searched

If you are randomly selected for a search, you have the right to refuse. When asked to submit, you may clearly and calmly say “Officer, I do not consent to any searches. I’m going to exit the station.” Do NOT talk back, raise your voice or physically resist.

Tip #2: Realize that Refusal Is Not Guilt

WMATA states that individuals who refuse to be searched “will not be allowed to enter the Metro system with [unchecked] items.” Such a refusal will not constitute probable cause for an arrest or reasonable suspicion for a forcible detention.

Tip #3: Shut Your Mouth and Your Wallet

Whether or not you consent to a search, you do not have to answer any police questions or give any information (e.g. your name, ID, citizenship or immigration status). But remember, anything you say can be used against you.

Tip #4: WARNING: DO NOT RUN!

In the London subway an unarmed man was shot and killed after running from police.

Tip #5: Report Abuses

If you believe your rights have been violated, write down the officer’s name and badge number and everything you remember as soon as possible. Then submit a complaint to the Metro Transit Police. (View our online tips for submitting a misconduct complaint.) Please send us a copy of your complaint to info@flexyourrights.org.



Learn more about how to assert your constitutional rights during Metro searches and other police encounters at

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What's The Deal with Metro Searches?

Metro Transit officials are implementing random police searches of passengers' bags and packages. We believe free people should never have to prove their innocence in order to use public transportation. Nor do we see any evidence that these searches will reduce the terror threat.

Do you fear that we will have fewer and fewer public spaces where we can be free from random searches?

Do you think that this program is another step towards the creation of a "police state"?

Do you believe that this territorial expansion of police search powers is a stark violation of people's 4th Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures?

If you answer **Yes** to any of the above, visit us at www.FlexYourRights.org/subway to learn what you can do to help.

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The 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."



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