

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

A GUIDE FOR IOWA STUDENTS

on what you can (and can't)
say, do, write, wear,
publish, post, or protest
under the law



acknowledgements

We would like to thank the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington and the ACLU of Northern California for providing much of the inspiration and content of this handbook.

This publication is published by the ACLU Foundation of Iowa, Inc., a non-profit organization affiliated with the national American Civil Liberties Union. It is a non-partisan group, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guaranteed to everyone in this country.

THIS BOOKLET IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONTEXT. HOWEVER, THIS HANDBOOK IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE CASE-SPECIFIC LEGAL ADVICE AND IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ADVICE OF A LAWYER.

USERS OF THIS HANDBOOK SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE INFORMATION IT PROVIDES MAY NOT BE CURRENT OR MAY NOT APPLY TO A SPECIFIC SITUATION.

IF A LAWSUIT IS BEING CONSIDERED, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT CERTAIN CLAIMS ARE TIME-LIMITED AND MAY EXPIRE IF THEY ARE NOT BROUGHT BEFORE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS RUNS OUT. THEREFORE POTENTIAL LITIGANTS ARE ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH A LAWYER PROMPTLY.



**For more information about your rights and civil liberties,
go to www.aclu-ia.org**



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Eveline Chang, Veronica Lorson Fowler, Shayna Gelender, Katayoon Majd, Susana Millman,
Nancy Otto, Gigi Pandian and Rick Rocamora

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Students have rights too

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT YET 18 OR 21, YOU STILL HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS

All young people in this country, to some degree, have a right to freedom of speech, freedom of expression, a right to privacy, freedom of religion (including following no religion), and the freedom to attend school without discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, or other differences.

True, you'll have more full rights once you are an adult. But don't short-change yourself. If you feel a rule or law is unfair, chances are, you can do something about it.

Back in 1965, three Iowa students forever changed the way schools treated students. Mary Beth Tinker, just 13; her brother, John Tinker, age 15; and their friend Chris Eckhardt, were students in Des Moines. They wore black armbands to school to support a truce in the Vietnam War. The school didn't want them to wear the armbands, and they were suspended.

But with the help of their parents and the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa, they fought in court for their right to wear the armbands. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the students won!

"IT CAN HARDLY BE ARGUED THAT EITHER STUDENTS OR TEACHERS SHED THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH OR EXPRESSION AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE GATE."

— JUSTICE WILLIAM BRENNAN

IN HIS U.S. SUPREME COURT OPINION IN THE TINKER CASE

Because of the courage and conviction of these three students, young people all across the country now have a recognized fundamental right to express themselves, even in school.

We encourage you, too, to exercise your rights. Read on and find out how!



MARY BETH TINKER WAS JUST 13 WHEN SHE FOUGHT FOR HER RIGHT TO PROTEST AT SCHOOL. THE CASE WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT.

the test

USE THIS TEST, BASED ON IOWA LAW, TO FIGURE OUT IF THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS, OR OFFICIALS CAN CONTROL WHAT YOU SAY, WRITE, DO, OR CREATE.

THE ONLY REASONS THEY CAN FORBID YOU TO DO SOMETHING ARE IF

1

IT'S SUBSTANTIALLY DISRUPTIVE, that is, it gets in the way of students learning in an appropriate environment. (That's why students aren't allowed to talk out of turn in most classrooms.)

2

IT VIOLATES THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS, such as slanderous or libelous speech or bullying or harassment.

3

IT ENCOURAGES ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR, as with T-shirts that promote drug use.

4

IT'S VULGAR OR OBSCENE. This is a tough one, because what a school principal thinks is vulgar or obscene may not be what a high school junior thinks is obscene. Just because it's about sex or homosexuality, for example, it's not necessarily obscene or vulgar.

5

IT'S PART OF A SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATION, BROCHURE, WEB SITE, OR OTHER TYPE OF MEDIA. However, in Iowa, students have a little more freedom than in other states. See page 8 for more explanation

6

IT'S CONVEYING AN "OFFICIAL" RELIGIOUS MESSAGE OR AN OFFICIAL ANTI-RELIGIOUS MESSAGE in the name or on behalf of the school. See page 8 for more info.

Source: The above is a summary of Iowa Code Section 280.22, the portion of Iowa law that spells out student rights to freedom of speech and expression.

HOW TO FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS

WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN YOU FEEL YOUR SCHOOL IS TRAMPLING ON YOUR RIGHTS?

FIRST, CHECK ANY STUDENT HANDBOOK or other written rules your district may have on the issue.

THEN RESEARCH THE ISSUE A LITTLE. Google it and see what's been happening in the news with student and parent complaints or lawsuits. Chances are you'll also find some good arguments against the school's actions!

GET ADVICE. Ask teachers, parents, members of the community, or others for advice on how to fix the problem. And call us at the ACLU of Iowa! (515-243-3576) We'll offer advice, make suggestions, and even take on a lawsuit if necessary.

WRITE THE PRINCIPAL AND/OR SCHOOL BOARD A LETTER that outlines your concerns. Ask for a written response. Getting things in writing forces everyone to frame the argument more clearly. It also shows the school that you're serious and not just blowing off steam.

GET PETITIONS SIGNED BY OTHER STUDENTS, parents and teachers, especially journalism or yearbook advisors, debate coaches, history and government teachers or others who really understand—we hope!—the First Amendment.

WRITE AN ARTICLE IN THE SCHOOL PAPER. If you're not allowed to publish it at your school, call or email us! You can also send it to your local paper. They love free speech and expression issues!

MAKE A STATEMENT AT A SCHOOL BOARD MEETING. Ask parents, community members, youth advocates, and any local lawyers who deal in First Amendment issues to join or support you.

THROW AROUND THE CONSTITUTION. If you know what portion of the U.S. Constitution or Bill of Rights is protecting you in this particular issue, it helps convince the authorities involved that they may be doing something that violates the law.

HELPFUL HINT: Always stay calm and be respectful but firm in dealing with school officials. You'll make your point better and they can't nail you on unruly behavior.

**Have a student rights problem or just a simple question?
Call us at 515-243-3576. Or email us at
legal.program@aclu-ia.org.**



freedom of speech

The First Amendment guarantees the right of free speech and expression to all, including young people.

It also prohibits the government (including government-supported public schools) from promoting any particular religion or religious belief—what is known as separation of church and state.

DO I HAVE A RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH WHILE I AM IN SCHOOL?

YES. Your freedom of speech and expression are guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. You do not give up your constitutional rights when you walk through the school door.

Of course, you don't have the right to say and do everything. In fact, there's a famous legal opinion that states that free speech does not mean you can falsely shout fire in a crowded theatre, and the same rule applies to students. Read on!

CAN THE SCHOOL LIMIT WHAT I SAY, WRITE, CREATE, AND DO?

YES. Even with the First Amendment, a public school can adopt "reasonable rules" that regulate the "time, place and manner" of your exercising these free speech rights and sometimes the content. (Private schools don't have to follow as many laws ensuring free speech.)

So even if your principal or teachers believe that an article or leaflet is in "bad taste," or is controversial, divisive, or expresses a political point of view that is against school policy, they still cannot censor what you say or write unless it falls within the six categories in "The Test" on page 5.



If a teacher or school official is trying to limit your freedom of speech or expression, show them this book. Ask them to explain how what you are saying or doing falls into any of those seven categories.



For more detailed information on student free speech and harassment, go to www.aclu-ia.org/standup.

freedom of speech

CONTINUED

HOW MUCH CAN THE SCHOOL CENSOR OUR SCHOOL PAPER OR MAGAZINE?

TO SOME EXTENT. Even with the First Amendment guarantees of free speech, the Iowa Code—the book of laws for the state—specifies that students working on student publications have the right of free speech, it also says they can't publish materials that are:

- “Obscene”
- “Libelous” or “slandrous”
- Would encourage students to commit unlawful acts, violate student regulations, or cause considerable disruption at the school.

Iowa students have it easier than students in most other states. In those other states, school principals can decide to kill a story or other item in a student publication. In Iowa, it's the publication advisor, rather than the principal, who is legally makes the story to edit or kill a story (but only for the reasons above). It's an effort to put the decision in the hands of someone who has background in the importance of free speech.

WHAT CAN WE DO IF THE SCHOOL DOES TRY TO CENSOR US?

Each school board is required to have a written policy on student publications. First, ask to see that policy and review it.

Discuss calmly with the school official who is objecting to the item why you think it's important to publish. If possible, involve the English or journalism teacher to advocate for your side.

If this doesn't work, consider the ideas for student advocacy on page 6.

CAN THEY BAN OUR SPEECH OR PUBLICATION JUST BECAUSE IT CRITICIZES SCHOOL OFFICIALS OR THE SCHOOL?

NO. Criticism of school officials and school policies is clearly free speech as long as it complies with the rules in “The Test” on page 5.



Have a student rights complaint? Send us an email describing the problem to legal.program@aclu-ia.org or call us at 515-243-3575. We'll try to help!

freedom of speech

CONTINUED

CAN A SCHOOL STOP ME FROM VOICING MY OPINIONS ON A WEBSITE? A BLOG? FACEBOOK? EMAIL? TEXTING? OR EVEN INSTANT MESSAGING?

Generally speaking, school officials do not have the right to punish students for material on websites created outside of school on equipment that does not belong to the school or is not kept on school property.

However, sometimes school officials will claim that what you say on your own website or in a blog or whatever is “related to school attendance”—in other words that it has an impact on what happens at school.

There is no clear law on this, although generally courts have supported the rights of students to voice opinions on websites outside of school.

Be aware that school officials may try to punish you for what you say on the website if you talk about it at school or call it up on a computer at school.

Think that maybe your school is restricting your free speech rights but aren't sure? Email us at legal.program@aclu-ia.org or call us at 515-243-3576 and we'll do our best to help you!

CAN MY SCHOOL STOP SPEECH THAT IT SAYS IS “HARASSMENT”?

Students definitely have a right to voice even offensive opinions, but the school also has a duty to step in when students use words as a weapon against each other. That could be bullying or harassment.

You can't intentionally intimidate or demean someone in school on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or religion in a way that would make that person afraid for his physical well-being, have a substantial effect on mental health, interfere with studies, or interfere with that person's ability to fully participate in school activities.



oaths, prayer and religious instruction

The First Amendment guarantees the right to young people and others to freely express their thoughts on the matters of government, politics, and religion.

DO WE HAVE TO SAY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE OR STAND FOR THE FLAG?

NO. The courts say that students have the right to sit silently during the flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance.

CAN TEACHERS, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS LEAD STUDENTS IN PRAYERS OR OTHER RELIGIOUS EXERCISES IN SCHOOL?

NOT AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that school prayers and Bible readings in public schools (and during school-sponsored activities, including sporting events) are unconstitutional because they are a form of religious coercion for students. "Official" prayers and Bible reading are not allowed even if they are supposedly nondenominational or voluntary.

In a class, you may study different prayers and religious books if they are part of a course such as history or literature, and do not promote any particular religion.

But certainly, you individually are free to pray at school. And you are also free to pray with friends and others—that's your First Amendment right to freely exercise your religion.

WHAT ABOUT PRAYERS OR RELIGIOUS MENTIONS AT OUR GRADUATION OR OTHER SCHOOL CEREMONIES?

IT'S A LITTLE COMPLICATED. School authorities, a student, or a religious leader cannot lead the people assembled for the event in prayer, and cannot deliver an official prayer. This includes graduation ceremonies and extracurricular school activities, such as sporting events.

SO IF THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE, HOW ARE SCHOOLS ALLOWED TO HOLD BACCALAUREATES?

Baccalaureates—special ceremonies held usually a day or week or so before the actual graduation ceremonies—were indeed once sponsored by schools, but in recent years, because of concerns about separation of church and state (at public schools, which are government-owned), baccalaureates these days now must be organized and funded by private organizations.

The school may make its facilities available for a baccalaureate service only if the facilities are offered on an equal basis for non-religious activities of a similar nature.



Oaths, Prayer and Religious Instruction

CONTINUED

WHAT ABOUT A MOMENT OF SILENCE?

IT DEPENDS ON THE PURPOSE OF THE MOMENT OF SILENCE.

It also depends on how it is carried out. If the purpose or effect is to promote religion then it is probably against the law. On the other hand, if the purpose has nothing to do with religion—for example, to remember someone who has died or to think about world peace—then it is probably okay.

CAN THE SCHOOL SPONSOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS OR OTHER TYPES OF RELIGIOUS PAGEANTS OR DISPLAYS?

A public school (again, the rules for private schools are different since they are not funded by the government) may not display religious symbols or Nativity scenes on school property. Sometimes, however, it's not clear whether an exhibit clearly sends a religious message.

Ames High recently experienced a controversy because it received a free evergreen tree in December, which it decorated with a sports theme and called a "winter tree." People complained, and school officials removed the tree.

HOW ABOUT SINGING RELIGIOUS SONGS?

Schools are allowed to instruct students to sing religious music because it makes up such a large part of music history. However, schools can go too far by making too much of the music religious. It's a matter of degree.

If you feel your school focuses too much on religious music, follow the steps on page 6.

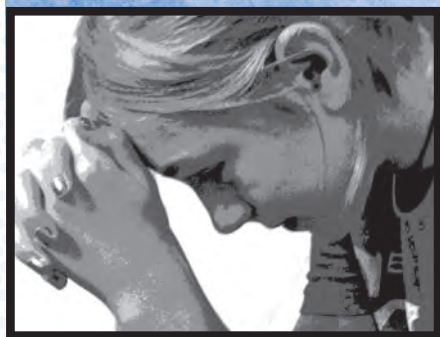
CAN STUDENT GROUPS HOLD RELIGIOUS MEETINGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY?

YES. Christian and other religious groups have the same rights as any other student group.

The only rules are that 1) the meetings be student-initiated and 2) that school staff may not *promote* religious clubs (although they may be present to ensure order and to serve as neutral faculty advisors.)

CAN STUDENTS HAND OUT RELIGIOUS MATERIALS IN SCHOOL?

YES. Students can distribute religious materials as long as the students are given the same rules and treatment as other non-religious written materials—no better, no worse.



dress codes & t-shirts

The First Amendment gives young people and others the right to express themselves through what they wear, with certain restrictions.

CAN THE SCHOOL TELL ME WHAT—OR WHAT NOT—TO WEAR TO SCHOOL?

IN MOST CASES. Schools have pretty broad leeway in creating rules on dress and clothing. Many times, they say the rules are to prevent distractions or prevent gang activity.

However, if your clothing relays a particular message, such as one about involvement in war or political and social issues (and it meets The Test on page 5) it's more likely to be protected by the First Amendment.

That said, a school's dress code by law must be clear, reasonable, fair, understandable, and serve a school's education mission.

A dress code that simply bans "gang colors," for example, would be unconstitutional because determining what is or is not a gang color would be impossible. On the other hand, requiring all students to wear school uniforms is more likely to be allowed by the legal system because the rule is specific and isn't attempting to ban students from expressing their beliefs.

CAN A SCHOOL'S DRESS CODE KEEP US FROM WEARING T-SHIRTS THAT HAVE CERTAIN SLOGANS OR MESSAGES ON THEM?

IT DEPENDS. Some schools, to avoid the problem, ban any T-shirt that has a message on it, and that may be allowed by law. However, if the school does allow students to wear T-shirts with messages, it cannot ban any particular message unless it's obscene, vulgar, or promotes illegal activities (such as

drinking) or intrudes on the rights of others (such as personal harassment)

CAN THE SCHOOL MAKE ME WEAR A SCHOOL UNIFORM OR A SET OUTFIT THAT'S LIKE A UNIFORM?

IN SOME CASES. Usually, it's private schools (which aren't government-funded) that have uniforms. However, more public schools are experimenting with requiring a student uniform or something close to it.

The Waterloo schools, imposed a conservative dress code. That dress code restricts students to shirts in certain solid colors with collars and solid-color pants, such as khakis, and banned jeans. Parents and students fought the code, saying it was too restrictive and violated state law. But the Iowa Board of Education ruled that school districts could indeed have a dress code such as this one.

PARTICULARLY IF A T-SHIRT HAS A POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS MESSAGE, SCHOOL OFFICIALS CAN'T BAN YOUR WEARING IT. IN 2005, TWO STUDENTS AT ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL IN DES MOINES WORE T-SHIRTS THAT SAID "ABORTION KILLS KIDS" THEY WERE TOLD TO COVER UP THE WORDING OR THEY WOULD BE PUNISHED.

THE TWO GIRLS PROTESTED AND THE STORY ENDED UP IN THE MEDIA. THE ACLU ALSO PROTESTED THE SCHOOL'S BAN. THE SCHOOL CHANGED ITS POLICY AND THE STUDENTS WERE ALLOWED TO WEAR THE ANTI-ABORTION T-SHIRTS.

discrimination

& bullying

While the First Amendment assures everyone the right of free speech, that right does not extend to bullying, making other students feel unsafe, or getting in the way of an education.

WHAT CAN I DO IF THE SCHOOL OR PEOPLE AT THE SCHOOL ARE MAKING RACIST COMMENTS?

The law is clear in forbidding school officials, teachers, and staff from discriminating against students on the basis of race or national origin, and that includes racist comments.

If you feel that you or another student is being discriminated against or subjected to unfair stereotypes, get advice from a teacher or other trusted adult you think will be sympathetic. Find out if there's a complaint procedure (most schools have written complaint procedures) and follow it. Then consider the actions in "How To Fight For Your Rights" on page 6.

THE IOWA PRIDE NETWORK

THE IOWA PRIDE NETWORK, BASED IN DES MOINES, IS A STATEWIDE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS DIRECTLY WITH STUDENTS, HELPING TO TO START AND ENHANCE GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

IT ALSO IS BUILDING A STATEWIDE NETWORK THAT OFFERS SUPPORT, MENTORING, EDUCATIONAL, ADVOCACY, AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES. IN ADDITION, THE IOWA PRIDE NETWORK FIGHTS BIGOTRY AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST LGBT STUDENTS IN IOWA AND EDUCATES POLICY MAKERS AND EDUCATORS ON ISSUES FACING LGBT STUDENTS

CALL 515-471-8063 OR FIND OUT MORE BY GOING TO WWW.IOWAPRIDENETWORK.ORG.

WHAT CAN I DO IF THE SCHOOL OR PEOPLE AND/OR STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL ARE HOSTILE ON ISSUES OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION?

Harassment and attacks on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students—or even students who are merely questioning their gender preferences or are perceived by others as gay—has gained more attention in recent years. Schools have a legal obligation to keep all students safe and to prevent bullying or harassment of LGBT students (and, in fact, *all* students) by other students, teachers, and staff.

LGBT students have the same rights of expression as others. Teachers and others cannot restrict your expression of your ideas and beliefs. You can talk openly about your sexual orientation, form a club based on sexual orientation, and openly take your same-sex date to a public school dance or prom.



discrimination & bullying

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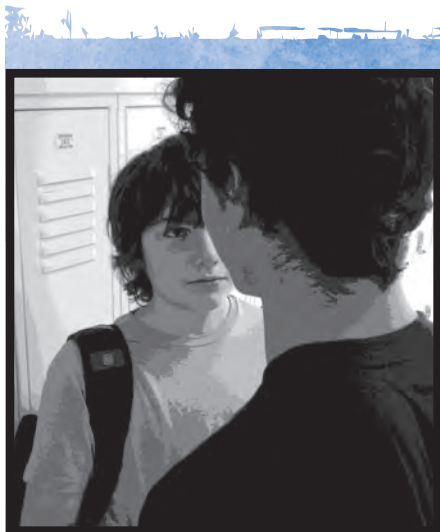
HOW CAN I TELL IF SOMEONE IS BULLYING OR HARASSING ME OR A FRIEND?

Iowa law defines harassment and bullying to be something that:

- Cause the student to **fear for harm** to themselves or their property
- Has a “substantially detrimental effect” on the student’s physical or mental health
- Interferes with the student’s academic performance
- Interferes with the person’s ability to participate or benefit from activities and benefits of the school
- Can also be discrimination, based on a wide variety of characteristics of the person being bullied, including age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation (or perceived sexual orientation), gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political preference, socioeconomic status, or family makeup.

And bullying doesn’t have to occur only in person or only at school. Bullying can happen through texts, emails, phone calls, instant messaging, blogging, Facebook, MySpace, and other computer communications.

If you are being bullied or harassed, discuss it with a parent or trusted adult. Remember that you are not the one who is doing something wrong—the bully/bullies are.



Then approach the school. Iowa law requires all schools to protect students from bullies. And all Iowa schools must have an anti-bullying policy. Ask for a copy so you better understand what the school is supposed to do. Then talk to a school official (bringing a parent or friend along for support is a great idea).

Many students think that if they report bullies, the harassment will get worse. You have to consider all the consequences, but very often reporting bullies stops them from pushing you around—and many others. Also be aware that retaliation is against the rules.

For more information on what you can do to deal with bullies, go to www.iowapridenetwork.org. They've got great information!



body & locker searches

The Fourth Amendment guarantees the rights of young people and others against "unreasonable searches and seizures."



CAN THE SCHOOL SEARCH MY LOCKER?

YES. Schools usually justify locker inspections by saying they are school property and giving notice to students in advance or in their student handbooks. Iowa law supports this. So don't keep anything in your locker that you would like to keep private.

CAN THE SCHOOL TAKE AWAY MY STUFF, LIKE BOOKS, PHONES, OR WHATEVER?

IT DEPENDS. If it's something that is illegal for students to have, such as a weapon or illegal drugs, schools clearly have a legal right to seize it immediately.

However, with other items it's less clear. A teacher may take an MP3 player or cell phone because the teacher felt the device is disruptive or simply not allowed by classroom or school policy.

Most teachers keep the item for just long enough to prevent the distraction. They may give back a phone at the end of class or the end of the day. Some require that items be picked up by a parent. But schools don't have the authority to keep your legal property indefinitely.

STRIP SEARCHES

STRIP SEARCHES OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS ARE ABSOLUTELY NOT ALLOWED BY IOWA LAW. IN FACT, RECENTLY THREE ATLANTIC HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SUED THEIR SCHOOL AFTER THEY WERE STRIP-SEARCHED WHEN A STUDENT COMPLAINED ABOUT MISSING \$100.

CAN THE PRINCIPAL OR A TEACHER SEARCH ME?

YES, but only under certain specific circumstances. Even at school, you have a basic constitutional right to privacy.

Under the law, if a school official wants to search you, there are two requirements:

FIRST, before he or she searches you, there must be a "reasonable suspicion," based on facts, that the search will produce evidence that you are violating the law or a school rule.

For example, the principal would have to have specific information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a particular student is carrying a weapon, drugs or cigarettes. The principal couldn't do a search just because he or she believes that an unidentified student or the student body in general is violating the rules.

SECOND, the way a school official searches you should be "reasonable" based on your age and what is being searched for.

birth control, pregnancy, and medical rights

All young people in Iowa have a right to a certain amount of privacy and to control in making important, informed decisions about their own bodies.

CAN I GET THE PILL OR OTHER PRESCRIPTION BIRTH CONTROL WITHOUT TELLING MY PARENTS?

YES. No matter how young you are, you may get pregnancy counseling, prenatal care, contraception, medical care, or examination after a sexual assault without permission from your parents or notifying them. (Many students go to their local Planned Parenthood health or call a sexual assault center.)

But just to be sure to call and ask the doctor or staff if your parents will be told. For all health care services, it's **completely confidential** and health center staff will not involve your parents or anyone without your okay.

CAN I GET AN ABORTION WITHOUT MY PARENTS' PERMISSION?

YES. In Iowa, even if you are under age 18, you can get an abortion without your parent's official consent (assuming you find a doctor to perform the procedure.) However, Iowa law requires that parents must be *notified* about the pending abortion. This can be done with a form that is mailed to them.

Another option: Iowa law also says that you can, with a judge's okay, get an abortion without telling your parents. Ask at your health center or doctor's office if you need this option.

CAN MY PARENT TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT TO PUT MY BABY UP FOR ADOPTION?

NO. Just as you can obtain birth control without your parents' consent, you can choose to put your baby up for adoption without their permission. If you are considering adoption, you can get counseling and information from adoption agencies, whether you ultimately decide to go through adoption or not.

However, your parents might be permitted to intervene if they want to seek custody of your child.



birth control, pregnancy, and medical rights

CONTINUED

CAN I GO TO THE DOCTOR FOR A PREGNANCY TEST OR A SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE WITHOUT MY PARENT'S KNOWLEDGE?

IT DEPENDS. Although parental consent is required for most medical treatment for minors under the age of 18, some medical situations can be treated without your parents' knowledge.

If you are 12 or older, you can be treated for sexually transmitted diseases (such as syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes, etc.), sexual assault, alcoholism, drug abuse, or obtain mental health counseling, without your parents' permission.

But to be extra sure, you should ask the doctor or health center whether your parents will be told. For most

services, health center staff will not involve your parents. But could happen, especially for sexual assault, mental health, and alcoholism or substance abuse treatment—so it is best to find out the health center's policy.

The Department of Public Health and other community resources give treatments for some of these diseases and conditions for free.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE HEARTLAND, BASED IN DES MOINES, OFFERS A FULL RANGE OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND COUNSELING TO WOMEN, MEN, AND TEENS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. IT HAS 25 CENTERS THROUGHOUT IOWA. THEY ARE REDUCED COST OR FREE, DEPENDING ON NEED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL TOLL-FREE AT 877-811-PLAN (7526) OR GO TO WWW.PPHEARTLAND.ORG.



Find out more about reproductive rights at www.acu.org/reproductive-freedom. Stand up for the right to control your body and health!

drinking and drugs

The drinking age in Iowa is 21. Pot and other drugs are illegal for anyone. Learn about the consequences if you use or get caught.

CAN THE SCHOOL REQUIRE A DRUG TEST?

USUALLY NOT. Iowa law does not allow schools to do urine tests of students unless they have reasonable suspicion that you have been doing drugs. Even then, the school has to be able to demonstrate that a urine test is likely to produce evidence that the particular student broke the law or a school rule.

In most of the rest of the country, middle or high school students who want to participate in extracurricular activities can randomly be tested for drugs even if there's no suspicion that they've been using drugs. But Iowa law specifically forbids that in public schools.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF I GET CAUGHT DRINKING OR HAVE ALCOHOL IN MY POSSESSION?

If you buy, or even attempt to buy, alcohol (including beer), you can be fined \$100 or more. If someone buys or gives a minor alcohol, they can be punished with a fine of \$500 or more.

At school, the consequences can vary, but often include suspension from classes, sports, and extracurricular activities. You might also be required to complete a substance abuse program. This can be regardless of whether you had the alcohol at school, at a school activity, at a party away from school, or even on a school trip in another country where minors drinking alcohol is legal.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF I GET CAUGHT SMOKING POT OR HAVE IT IN MY POSSESSION?

IF YOU GET CAUGHT AT SCHOOL, MOST LIKELY YOU WILL GET SUSPENDED. No matter where you were caught, you will also likely be charged by the police. Also, a drug arrest such can become part of your permanent record and interfere with your opportunities in careers, scholarships, the military, government, or political careers.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF I GET CAUGHT USING OTHER DRUGS OR HAVE THEM IN MY POSSESSION?

Illegal drugs are not all punished the same. Some sentences are very mild; others are very harsh, depending on the drug, the situation, and your past record.

Even if you are not yet 18, with serious drug offenses, you may be tried as an adult. That means you might get an extremely harsh punishment, which could possibly include decades of prison time.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET CAUGHT SELLING DRUGS TO ANYONE, EVEN JUST FRIENDS?

Selling drugs or having enough drugs to sell can result in harsh penalties. They vary depending on quantity and the substance or drug involved. Possession of just 5 grams of meth, for example, could be punished with up to 25 years in prison.

drinking and drugs

CONTINUED

IF I'M YOUNGER THAN 21 AND HAVE BEEN DRINKING JUST A LITTLE, WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF I GET CAUGHT DRIVING?

If you are under 21 and you're caught with a blood alcohol level of .02, you will lose your license for 60 days. Be aware that just one drink can result in a .02 blood alcohol reading, even though you are not feeling drunk.

WHAT IF I GET CAUGHT DRIVING AND I'M ACTUALLY DRUNK?

If you get stopped by police, you may be asked to take a breath test. You have the legal right to refuse.

However, if you refuse to take the test, you will be arrested. If you then also refuse to submit to an alcohol level test at the police station, you will lose your license for at least 180 days. However, keep in mind that if you have indeed been drinking, those penalties may be less harsh than the penalties you could get for submitting to an alcohol test that then proved you were legally drunk.

If you submit to the test and it shows you were driving drunk, first-offense drunk driving carries a penalty of a mandatory two days in jail with possible additional imprisonment of

up to one year and a minimum fine of \$1,200. You'll lose your license for at least a year. And you may have to pay restitution, lawyer fees, and court costs.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE'S A CAR ACCIDENT AND THE DRIVER OR PEOPLE IN THE CAR HAVE BEEN DRINKING OR USING DRUGS?

The driver, his or her parents, the owners of the car and possibly even the passengers may be required to pay for the accident.

Juvenile delinquency or adult criminal charges against everyone in the car are likely. The driver's license to operate a motor vehicle will be suspended, and if the driver is a student, he or she may be suspended from extracurricular activities.

WHAT'S A "GOOD CONDUCT" RULE?

Many school officials expect students who participate in extracurricular activities to "represent their school" in a positive way at all times. Under this legal theory, a student can be deprived of participating in all extracurricular activities if he or she violates a school rule—even if the conduct itself is perfectly legal, or takes place away from school or a school-sponsored event.

In fact, if your school has a rule that says that students cannot even be in the mere *presence* of alcohol or drugs, then you can be banned from extracurricular activities even though you did not get arrested, or consume or possess any alcohol or drugs. Your mere presence at a beer party can get you removed from the team! Or an 18-year-old caught smoking away from school could be banned from prom, even though the student's conduct was perfectly legal.



getting kicked out & other punishment

Schools have limited rights in suspending you from school, banning you from school events, or in punishing you in other ways.

FOR WHAT REASONS CAN MY SCHOOL KICK ME OUT?

Schools can kick out students for a wide variety of reasons. “Suspensions”—a temporary kicking out—almost always are for a day to a couple of weeks.

The only rights students have in a case like that is 1) for the school to tell you specifically why it wants to kick you out and 2) to allow you to tell your side of the story.

If you think you are being suspended unfairly, consider the steps for defending yourself on page 6.

“Expulsions” are permanent removal from school and happen for only the most serious cases, usually involving students who bring weapons to school or who are violent or chronically disruptive.

FOR WHAT REASON CAN THE SCHOOL BAN ME FROM SPECIAL SCHOOL EVENTS, SUCH AS PROM?

Schools can ban students from non-academic sponsored school functions, such as a prom, for any reason legitimately related to the health, safety or educational welfare of its students.

Most Iowa schools also have “good conduct rules” that expect students to “represent their school” in a positive way at all times. Under this rule, a student can be denied participating in an extracurricular or special event—even if the behavior is perfectly legal or takes place away from school or away from a school-sponsored event.

For example, if your school has a rule that student cannot be in the presence of alcohol or drugs, then you can be banned from an extracurricular even though you weren’t doing any drugs or drinking. Your mere presence at a party with beer can get you kicked off the team. Another example: an 18-year-old, who is a legal smoker, might get banned from prom even though what he or she was doing was perfectly legal.

Schools can also limit who attends school events by letting in only those who are part the student body, or just to a class level (like juniors and seniors). They can also restrict entry to a certain age range or dress code—but not a dress code that discriminates based religion, race, disability, or sexual orientation. For example, if a girl wants to wear a tux, she should be allowed to do so.

SCHOOLS CANNOT TURN AWAY OR KICK OUT A STUDENT FROM AN EVENT BECAUSE OF RELIGION, RACE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION (INCLUDING A SAME-SEX DATE), OR ANY OTHER FORM OF DISCRIMINATION.

CAN A TEACHER, THE PRINCIPAL, OR A COACH PUSH OR HIT ME?

NO. It is against the law for teachers or school staff to use physical violence against students as punishment or to vent their anger.

However, a teacher or staff can use “reasonable force” to restrain a student who is physically out of control and who presents a danger to himself or others.

trouble with the law

No matter how old you are, no matter what your race or social status, you have fundamental rights to fair treatment and “due process” in the legal system by police and other officials.

DO I HAVE TO OBEY LOCAL CURFEWS?

YES. But that doesn't mean you can't challenge a curfew and get it changed.

Curfews for minors have been objected to (and sometimes fought in the court) on the basis that they are not Constitutional. The main objection has been that curfews violate young people's First Amendment rights by preventing them from attending church functions, midnight vigils, after-school jobs, or political rallies. These cannot be unlawful to attend.

Various courts have decided that every curfew must be evaluated on its own terms and on the facts surrounding each particular challenge.

If you feel your community's curfew is unfair, consider taking action with the steps outlined on page 6.

HELPFUL HINT:

WHEN DEALING WITH THE POLICE, IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO BE POLITE SINCE THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO TREAT YOU RESPECTFULLY IN RETURN. NEVER RESIST ARREST AND NEVER RUN FROM A POLICE OFFICER.

DO I HAVE TO ANSWER POLICE QUESTIONS?

NO. You have the right to remain silent when questioned by the police and you can even say, “I want to exercise my right to remain silent.” You also have the right to request a free attorney.

In fact, if it goes so far that the police want to arrest you, they'll



probably read you your Miranda rights—just like in the movies: “You have the right to remain silent...” As part of that, they need to inform you of your right to remain silent, your right to a lawyer, and the fact that what you say can be used against you—before they question you.

IF YOU ARE TOLD THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY, YOU PROBABLY SHOULD REQUEST ONE (THE COURTS WILL PAY FOR ONE IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD ONE). IT'S PROBABLY SMARTEST NOT TO ANSWER ANY MORE QUESTIONS UNTIL THAT LAWYER ARRIVES.

DO I HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PRINCIPAL OR OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS WHO THINK I WAS INVOLVED IN SOMETHING THAT'S AGAINST THE LAW?

NO. At school, when the problem involves something that might be illegal, you still legally have the right to remain silent.

However, school officials can still discipline you whether you answer or not.

IF YOU'RE BEING QUESTIONED ABOUT SOMETHING AT SCHOOL THAT COULD LAND YOU IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW, IT'S BEST TO INSIST ON FIRST BEING ALLOWED TO CONTACT YOUR PARENTS OR A TRUSTED ADULT.

trouble with the law

CONTINUED

WHAT IF I AM STOPPED BY A POLICE OFFICER AWAY FROM SCHOOL?

Police officers may stop you and ask you what you're doing if they have "reasonable suspicion" that you are doing something wrong. However, police officers by law can't stop you simply because you're a person of color or otherwise practice "racial profiling."

After stopping you, police officers may ask you to identify yourself. Although it is not against the law in Iowa to refuse to identify yourself, bear in mind that your attitude and degree of cooperation are likely to have a strong influence on the decisions of the officer that you are dealing with.

You can ask politely why you are being stopped and if you are free to leave. If told you are free to leave, you can go.

If you believe that you are being questioned as a suspect in a crime, invoke your right to remain silent until you can talk to an attorney. Never try to talk your way out of it.

If the officer "Mirandizes" you (tells you that you have a "right to remain silent. You have a right to have an attorney present..."), always ask for an attorney and do not talk to the officer further.

During a stop an officer is permitted to give you a "pat down" and search all areas of your car or the vicinity that are within easy reach for a weapon. If the officer asks if he or she can search your pockets, car, or house further, you should usually say no.

Check out the handy dandy punch-out bust card in the back of this book. It's ideal to carry in your wallet or purse. You never know when you might need it!

IF THE OFFICER ASKS WHY YOU WILL NOT AGREE TO A SEARCH, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GIVE AN ANSWER OR AN EXPLANATION. BE AWARE THAT THE OFFICER WILL TRY TO PRESSURE OR PERSUADE YOU TO VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO THE SEARCH. IF YOU ARE NOT UNDER ARREST, YOU CAN LEAVE.

IS IT ILLEGAL TO BELONG TO A GANG?

It is illegal to join with others for the purpose of committing a crime. However, simply hanging out with people, even criminals—as long as you don't have a "criminal purpose" in mind—is constitutionally protected. This includes hanging out in public areas as long as you are behaving reasonably.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM ARRESTED?

If you are arrested, it's important to stay calm and as polite and respectful as you can. Fighting with or shouting at police officers only makes things worse and can cause them to file additional charges, such as resisting arrest.

If you're arrested, immediately ask to speak with your parents, guardian, or trusted adult. (Police are required by law to allow you this call.) You may ask directly for a lawyer. If you do this, all questioning should cease until a lawyer is provided.

Be aware that generally police can't lock you up or detain you for more than 48 hours without formally charging you with a crime and starting legal proceedings. They must then take action by either releasing you to your parents or guardian or by bringing you before a judge, who will determine whether you should go to a juvenile detention facility.



trouble with the law

CONTINUED

WHAT THINGS COULD MAKE ME END UP IN JUVENILE DETENTION?

Usually, if you are under age 18 and suspected of committing a less-serious crime (shoplifting, drug or alcohol use or possession), you would be arrested but then returned to a parent or guardian until you have a court appearance. **But in serious cases, such as sexual assault or robbery, the judge might order you to be locked in a juvenile detention facility.** (If this happens to you, you would be given an attorney who would provide you with further advice.)

You might then have a trial in juvenile court or you might have to stand trial as an adult. **If found guilty in juvenile court, you might be required to live at the state training school in Eldora until you are 18, or placed in a residential youth facility with certain rules for probation.** For a first offense on lesser crimes you might be permitted to live with your parents under terms of probation.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "TRIED AS AN ADULT?"

If you are 18 or under and break the law, you likely will be tried in juvenile court.

In rare cases, where teens older than 14 are accused of a serious offense, a judge may decide that a youth should be tried as an adult and subject to much tougher penalties and longer jail time.

CAN I BE ARRESTED OR LOCKED UP IF I RUN AWAY?

SORT OF. In Iowa, running away from home is not a crime. However, if you run away from home, a police officer who finds you may take you temporarily into custody and hold you in a secure facility until you can be returned to your parents, or, if the situation calls for it, a group home or other facility.

If you are running away from abuse at home and are caught running away, consider telling about the abuse. Again, depending on the situation, you may be returned to your parents (hopefully with the supervision of a social worker) or placed in foster care or a temporary shelter.



PHOTO: SACSIA BURKARE/FOTOLIA

Other rights

Your rights involving computers, what schools teach you, immigration, and more.

HOW MUCH CAN THE SCHOOL RESTRICT WHAT I DO ON THE SCHOOL COMPUTER?

SOMEWHAT. Most schools have strict limits on how you can use computers owned by the schools, either desktop computers or laptops you might be allowed to take home. There usually are restrictions on web sites you can visit, and often the computers themselves have blocking software installed.

Also, because the computer is owned by the school, the school has no legal right to respect your privacy on what you write, what and who you email, what web sites you visit, etc. Never store personal information on a school computer. And just expect that teachers and school administrators will be monitoring how the computers are used.

MOST DISPUTES OVER ALLEGED STUDENT MISUSE OF COMPUTERS AND TEXTING AND CELL PHONES HAVE OCCURRED WHEN STUDENTS HAVE POSTED OR TRANSMITTED MATERIAL THAT IS OBSCENE, ENCOURAGES ILLEGAL CONDUCT, OR INVADES THE RIGHTS OR PRIVACY OF OTHERS. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS HAVE ALSO TRIED TO PUNISH STUDENTS WHOSE ONLINE POSTINGS HAVE BEEN THREATENING, "INSUBORDINATE," OR SLANDEROUS.

If your school is filtering out positive information on LGBT issues, please contact us at legal.program@aclu-ia.org or call us at 515-243-3576.

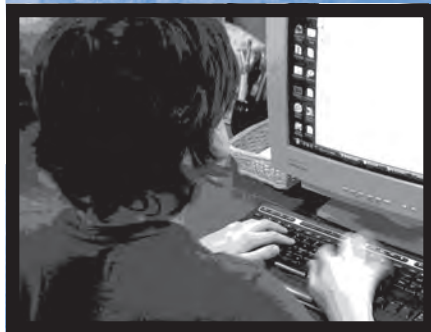
This is wrong and we can help!

CAN MY SCHOOL FILTER OUT COMPUTER INFORMATION ON LGBT ISSUES?

NO. Some public schools are wrongly using web filtering software to block student access to positive info about LGBT issues and organizations. This violates students' First Amendment rights to free speech. It also violates the Equal Access Act, which requires equal access to school resources for all extracurricular clubs, including gay-straight alliances and LGBT support groups.

Some schools have even set up web filters to block access to websites for positive LGBT rights organizations, but still allow access to anti-LGBT sites that condemn LGBT people or urge gay students to try to change their sexual orientation. This is called viewpoint discrimination, and it's also illegal.

For more information, visit <http://action.aclu.org/dontfilterme>.



HOW MUCH CAN THE SCHOOL RESTRICT WHAT I DO ON MY OWN TIME ON MY OWN COMPUTER AT HOME?

IF IT INVOLVES OTHER STUDENTS, A LOT. Schools are likely to get involved on what you are doing at home on your own computer when it might affect other students or the school. A major trigger for school intervention is any comments (or even jokes) that might be interpreted as a threat against the school or a student.

Other students across the country have been punished by school authorities for posting sites or messages that inappropriately target other students, teachers, administrators, or school staff.

This is a new area of the law, but for the moment, most schools will tolerate mature, well-presented criticisms of the school. But schools are likely to punish harassment or racist, sexist and other inappropriate materials, especially those aimed at other students or school staff. Again, the The Test of free speech on page 5. applies to electronic postings, too.



PHOTO: ERIC SIMARD/FOTOLIA

IF YOU ARE BEING SERIOUSLY ABUSED, CONSIDER REPORTING IT TO THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE AT THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AT 1-800-362-2178.

DO MY PARENTS OR OTHER ADULTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO HIT ME?

FOR THE MOST PART, NO. While parents do have the right to "spank" children, they do not have the right to be physically abusive or inappropriately touch you in a sexual way. **Physical and sexual abuse both are against the law and it is the adult, not the child, who will be prosecuted.**

Some teenagers have been able to stop abuse simply by pointing out to the abuser that it's illegal and that if it happens again, they'll report the person to the police or a teacher or officials at school.

Some professionals, such as school counselors, and teachers, are required by law to report incidents of child abuse. The good news is that if you are being abused, this requirement to report the abuse can be of help to you.

But if you don't want the abuser reported, be aware that telling your problem to what is called a "mandatory reporter" of abuse can result in the authorities getting involved.

If you have any bruises, scratches, bumps, or cuts from parents or other adults, or are being touched inappropriately, again, talk with a trusted adult. (Clergy people are not mandatory reporters.)

DO I HAVE TO LIVE WITH MY PARENTS? CAN I LIVE ON MY OWN, WITH FRIENDS OR WITH GRANDPARENTS IF I WANT?

Parents have the right to insist that you live with them until you are age 18, unless a court has taken away their custody of you. However, sometimes parents consent to allowing children to live with grandparents, aunts, uncles, older brothers or sisters, or even with parents of their children's friends.



CAN MY SCHOOL TEACH EVOLUTION? CAN IT TEACH INTELLIGENT DESIGN OR CREATIONISM?

PROBABLY NOT. A public school (funded by government money) in Iowa is not allowed to teach creationism or intelligent design as fact because these are belief systems based on a particular Christian religious viewpoint. Evolution, in contrast, is probably one of the most well-accepted scientific theories of all time.

Certainly, schools can discuss creationism and intelligent design as invalid scientific theories or in social studies of belief systems or in history, but they cannot present such belief systems as science or attempt to get students to embrace them as religion.

Most private schools do not get government funding and therefore can teach just about anything they want.

CAN MY SCHOOL TEACH ABSTINENCE- ONLY AS BIRTH CONTROL?

YES. Local schools are given a great deal of leeway in sex education. However, the law requires the education offered to be medically accurate and cannot make false claims about the effectiveness of abstinence-only or false claims about the effectiveness and safety of other methods.

As with all public school education, a teacher or staff member advocating for one particular method or viewpoint toward sexuality for *religious* reasons is not allowed.

IF I'M NOT A LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE U.S., CAN I GO TO SCHOOL?

YES. It's the law that public schools enroll students regardless of their immigration status.

In fact, schools can't even ask about your immigration status or ask for a green card, or Social Security number, or other proof of citizenship. If they do, you can say simply that you don't want to provide it.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT THE MILITARY TO TRY TO RECRUIT ME?

You or your parents can ask for something called a "military opt-out." That you can ask the school or fill out a form that asks them not to share your contact information with military recruiters so you won't get those calls or letters.

**If you are having a problem with what
or how your school teaches you, let us
know. We can probably help!**
**Email us at legal.program@aclu-ia.org
or call us at 515-243-3576.**





Become a card-carrying member of the American Civil Liberties Union and join the half-million other Americans who stand for freedom of speech and liberty for all.

- Students can join for just \$5.
- Adult memberships are \$20 for individuals; \$35 for joint memberships.

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Mail this completed form with payment to:

ACLU OF IOWA

505 5th Ave., Suite 901
Des Moines, IA 50309-2316

Or pay with a credit or debit card by visiting our website
www.aclu-ia.org.

**Clip and save
this handy
Student Bust Card
and put in your wallet
or purse as a reference
when dealing with law
enforcement.**



**If you are stopped by law enforcement
on foot or in a car, no matter what your
age or citizenship status:**

- You have the right to remain silent.
Say simply, "I want to remain silent."
- You have the right to refuse a search
of your car or property. However, if police
think you might have access to a weapon,
police *can* search your body and the area
within your immediate reach.
- If you are a passenger in a car, you are
not required to show an ID unless you are
getting a ticket.

IOWA STUDENT BUST CARD

- If you are not placed under arrest, you
have the right to leave.

If you are arrested:

- You continue to have the right to remain
silent.
- You have the right to call your parents or
a trusted adult before you are questioned.
- You have the right to ask for and receive
a lawyer (at no cost, if you can't afford it)
before you can be questioned further.

STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS!

**EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT YET 18
AND NOT YET A LEGAL ADULT, YOU
HAVE THE SAME CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS AS ADULTS.**

THE LAW ASSURES YOU:

- Freedom of speech and expression
- Freedom to practice (or not practice) the religion of your choice
- Freedom from harassment and bullying that interferes with your education.
- The right to make your own reproductive and medical choices in consultation with your doctor
- Equal rights to an education
- Basic rights when dealing with school officials and law enforcement

**THIS IS YOUR GUIDE TO THOSE RIGHTS.
READ ON AND LEARN MORE!**

ARE YOUR RIGHTS BEING VIOLATED? CONTACT US!

The ACLU of Iowa is interested in helping students defend their civil liberties. We're especially interested in:

- Censorship of student writing and other creative expression
- Censorship of books and other learning materials/presentations
- Religious freedom, both in the right to express your particular religion and in the school's responsibility to not endorse or support any particular religion.
- Illegal student searches
- LGBT discrimination and harassment
- Racism, sexism, and unfair treatment by school officials because of disabilities or national origin or immigration status.

To contact us, send us an email at legal.program@aclu-ia.org or call us at 515-992-0150.

Or visit our web site at www.aclu-ia.org

Be sure to give us specifics about your situation. We get many phone calls and emails, and unless you give us a few specifics, your call or email may not be returned.

TIPS IF STOPPED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- Don't run or try to speed away.
- Do give your real, full name if asked.
- Keep both hands in plain sight. (If you have been driving, keep your hands on the wheel.)
- Be calm. Be polite. Do not argue. Do not lie.
- Do not interfere with the police or try to stop them.
- Do not show fake IDs.
- Remember as many details as you can. Video or take pictures if you can.
- If you think there may be drugs, alcohol, or other illegal items on you or in your vehicle, do not consent to a search and don't let the officer talk you into one.

If you feel your civil liberties have been violated, call us at 515-243-3576, email legal.program@aclu-ia.org, or visit us at www.aclu-ia.org.



This booklet was created by the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa, which is committed to protecting the rights and freedoms of all Iowans, including students.

For more information on the rights guaranteed to you by the U.S. and Iowa Constitutions, visit us at www.aclu-ia.org.