

San Francisco State College  
BSU/TWLF Student Strike 1968-1969

Legal “Street Sheets” from National Lawyers Guild

Undated, probably late 1960s to early 1970s. May, or may not, have been distributed during the S.F. State strike, but is typical of legal information available to the strikers and community activists..



(This is not a substitute for an attorney's advice. If you have questions or problems, contact a lawyer.)

# LEGAL STREET SHEET #1

You're at home, or in your car, or on the street -- and the pigs start to hassle you. They demand ID, push you around a little, threaten you to make you talk, and you're scared. And they keep on intimidating you because you don't know the laws, you don't know your rights, and you're not exactly sure what to say to them. You know you don't want to take any shit from them, but what's on your mind is how you can get out of that situation. **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. KNOW THE LAW.** When the pigs come up against some people who know a little about what's going on legally, then sometimes they are not so quick to run that intimidation game down on you. Be cool, be quick, and be confident.

## IN YOUR CAR

1. Don't drive your car with headlights, taillights out, etc. unless you are prepared to get hassled by the cops. If you've got dope in the car, have a warrant out on you for traffic tickets, or even if you drop LITTER outside your car, you are inviting a bust. The cops can pull you over for a traffic violation, and then bust you for something else.
2. When a cop signals you to pull over, pull over to the right side of the road, and stop. Turn off your engine. Don't try to outrace him unless you're **ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE** you can do it. You may not be able to, which will go heavier on you.
3. If you have dope with you, **DON'T THROW THE DOPE OUT THE WINDOW.** The cops will be looking for that. **NEVER LEAVE DOPE OR ROACHES IN THE ASHTAY.** **DON'T CARRY MORE DOPE THAN YOU CAN EAT.** The best place to keep it is in your underwear or in your shoe. Do **NOT** put dope in the glove compartment or under the seat, because those are the first places they will look.
4. Get your **DRIVER'S LICENSE** and your **CAR REGISTRATION** ready, and **GET OUT OF THE CAR** ready to hand the cops both items.
5. If you are driving, the cops can legally ask for your driver's license and your car registration, to prove that the car is not stolen, involved in a crime, etc.
6. The cops will ask you for your ID. This is why you want to have it ready. They are legally allowed to make you identify yourself, and if you don't, they can bust you for refusal to do so.
7. The cops will also expect you to account for your presence. Get your story ready, even before you are stopped. Everyone should have the same story, like on the way to a party, just went to see some friends, stopped for something to eat, etc.
8. If the cops keep asking you questions or start harrassing you, ask them, **"AM I UNDER ARREST?"** If they say yes, ask them what the charges are. The cops are required to tell you the charges. Don't give them time to think up new ones, although they may tack some on later. If the cops say no, and they start to search you, say, **"I DO NOT CONSENT TO A SEARCH."** And get witnesses who hear you say that.

(over)



9. Legally, the cops are allowed to pat you down for weapons, even if you are NOT under arrest. This means ONLY THE OUTSIDE of your clothing. Unless they feel an object which may be a weapon, they cannot look into your pockets, or into a cigarette package which couldn't hold weapons. Remember, the best place to keep dope is in your underwear or in your shoe.

10. If you are under arrest, the cops ARE legally allowed to search your pockets, purse, knapsack, etc.

11. The cops are only supposed to search your car AFTER they have said you are under arrest. But if they see dope or a weapon in the car, this gives them legal cause to investigate.

12. Furtive conduct is grounds for arrest, so don't act suspicious in any way, like obviously eating your dope as they are walking to your car.

13. Don't cooperate by opening the trunk of the car for the cops. You can tell them that you know that they are not supposed to search the car unless they bust you, but be careful how you tell them. You don't want to help open the trunk because they might do something illegal that won't hold up in court.

14. DON'T CONFESS TO ANYTHING. They might try to get information out of you by scaring you, saying it will go easier on you if you confess, saying your car was involved in a crime, anything to get you to talk. DON'T TALK. Say simply, "I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY UNTIL I TALK TO MY LAWYER." Even if you don't have a lawyer already, you are entitled to a free public defender.

15. The cops may tell you a brief thing about your right to remain silent, etc. They may also try to get you to sign a paper saying that they informed you of your rights. NEVER SIGN ANYTHING. You are not required to, so say that you will not.

16. IF YOU CAN'T ESCAPE, don't give the cops cause to charge you with resisting arrest by trying to run. They might charge you with this anyway, if they want to.

17. REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS. Remember the sequence of events, remember who said what and when, and get a good look at the cops who busted you. GET THEIR BADGE NUMBERS.

18. Act cool, be cool, and don't wiseass. The pigs will react according to your attitude and how you look, as well as what you did.

READ THIS MANY TIMES. POST IT IN YOUR HOUSE. SHOW IT TO YOUR FRIENDS. KNOW THE LAWS. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. DON'T CARRY DOPE, ILLEGAL PROPERTY, OR HAVE BROKEN LIGHTS ON YOUR CAR WHEN DOING POLITICAL WORK.

(by the national lawyers guild regional office staff)



(This is not a substitute for an attorney's advice. For further questions or problems you should contact a lawyer.)

LEGAL STREET SHEET #2

You're on the street, or in your car, or in your house. And the cops start to hassle you -- push you around a little bit, threaten you and act tough, and you're scared. You don't know your rights, you don't know the laws and you're not exactly sure what to say. The pigs know that and that's one of the reasons they can intimidate you. **KNOW THE LAW. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. AND KNOW THE POLICE.** Be cool, be confident, and be quick.

IN YOUR HOUSE, COPS KNOCK ON THE DOOR - WITH A SEARCH WARRANT OR AN ARREST WARRANT

1. ALWAYS KEEP YOUR DOOR LOCKED.
2. When someone knocks on the door, ask who it is WITH THE DOOR SHUT.
3. If it's the police, ASK IF THEY HAVE A WARRANT.
7. If they say yes, ASK THEM WHAT FOR. TELL THEM TO SHOVE IT UNDER THE DOOR.

IF THEY HAVE A SEARCH WARRANT:

8. You can let them in, if you want to, OR ELSE THEY WILL BUST IN.
9. If the cops find guns and the guns are legal, you should claim ownership. If the guns are illegal, NO ONE SHOULD SAY THEY BELONG TO HER/HIM.

IF THEY HAVE AN ARREST WARRANT:

10. The police should tell you who the warrant is for. If the police have reason to believe that the person named on the warrant is in your house, they will probably bust in, even if you say they can't come in.
11. If the victim named in the warrant is in the house, the best thing to do would probably be to surrender. This is a political decision that she or he will have to make. If the victim surrenders, she or he should go outside the door, shut the door and lock it. This will prevent the police from inviting themselves into the house at the same time. They will have to bust in.
12. If the victim tries to escape, she/he might find cops at the back door or surrounding the house, which will mean heavier charges like resisting arrest or attempting to escape, so be careful.
13. If the cops have reason to believe that the person named in the warrant is in the house and she/he has not surrendered, they can look through the house where the person might be -- in closets and under beds, but not in unreasonable places like drawers, etc.

IF THE POLICE TRY TO COME INTO THE HOUSE WITHOUT A WARRANT, TELL THEM, " YOU CANNOT COME INTO THE HOUSE." Get witnesses who hear you say that.

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WHEN THE COPS BUST INTO YOUR HOUSE:

14. FLUSH YOUR DOPE DOWN THE TOILET (if your plumbing can stand it). Dope should be kept in a central place so you can get to it quickly, but not an obvious place, in case you don't have time.
15. DON'T THROW DOPE OUT THE WINDOW. If the cops have the place surrounded, they will find it, and bust you for it.
16. Once they are in the house, the cops can legally search everyone in the house for weapons and can search the IMMEDIATE area around each person. Don't let the cops move you around or they will use this as an excuse to search more areas.
17. The cops can also look through the house for armed comrades once they are inside, even if they got in illegally.
18. Besides whomever or whatever the cops are looking for, anyone in the house can be busted for ANYTHING ILLEGAL THAT IS IN PLAIN VIEW, such as dope or illegal property. If the cops want to frame you, they will find or plant illegal property or dope and SAY it was in plain view.
19. If the cop finds dope or illegal property and asks whose it is, NO ONE SHOULD SAY IT BELONGS TO HER/HIM.
20. DON'T TALK. DON'T TALK. DON'T TALK. You are only required to identify yourself by giving your name and address. If they ask more questions, say, "I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY UNTIL I TALK TO MY LAWYER." You can say that even if you don't have a lawyer because if you don't have bread, you're entitled to a free public defender.
21. NEVER CONFESS TO ANYTHING. No matter what the cops lead you to believe, you'll never get out of a bust by confessing.
22. REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS. Remember everything that is said, remember everything that happens and in the correct order of events.
23. GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE COPS AND REMEMBER THEIR BADGE NUMBERS.

(by the regional office staff of the national lawyers guild)



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### LEGAL STREET SHEET #3

#### ON THE STREET AND HASSLED BY THE COPS

1. If the police ask you for identification, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF.
2. Without arresting you, THE COPS CAN LEGALLY PAT YOU DOWN FOR WEAPONS because you could be a threat to their immediate safety. The patdown is supposed to be only on the outside of your clothing. UNLESS THEY FEEL AN OBJECT THAT COULD BE A WEAPON, THEY CANNOT GO THROUGH YOUR POCKETS, without arresting you first.
3. You also may be expected to ACCOUNT FOR YOUR PRESENCE. Without going into a long explanation, you should do so.
4. If the cops continue to ask questions, you should say, "AM I UNDER ARREST?"
5. If they say no, but continue to ask questions, you should say, "I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY UNTIL I TALK TO MY LAWYER." (Even if you don't have one yet.)
6. If they say yes, you should say, "WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?" The police are required to tell you the charges.
7. If the police bust you, they are entitled to search you. If you are NOT under arrest and they search you, you should say, "I DO NOT CONSENT TO A SEARCH." Get witnesses who hear you say that.
8. The police MIGHT warn you of your rights, like the right to remain silent. They might try to get you to sign a paper saying that they told you your rights, but NEVER SIGN ANYTHING. You do not have to sign anything, and you should continue to refuse to do so.
9. FURTIVE CONDUCT is grounds for arrest, so don't do anything that looks suspicious. Your attitude makes a difference to the pigs. If you make smartass remarks the pigs will try to bust you on something. BE COOL.
10. NEVER CONFESS TO ANYTHING.
11. REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS. GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE COPS AND THEIR BADGE NUMBERS SO YOU CAN WARN YOUR FRIENDS.
- L@. THE PIGS AND UNDERCOVER AGENTS ARE REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WHEN THEY BUST YOU OR ASK YOU FOR INFORMATION. REMEMBER IF THEY DO THIS OR NOT.

(by the national lawyers guild regional office staff)



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#### LEGAL STREET SHEET #4

##### BUYING A GUN

1. Under California state law, a PERMIT is NOT required to buy or own a firearm. Some cities like San Francisco DO require a permit to buy a CONCEALABLE WEAPON, so if you don't want to get a permit, don't buy in San Francisco.

2. A CONCEALABLE WEAPON (such as a pistol or a revolver) is one that is capable of being concealed (hidden) upon the person. It has a barrel less than 12 inches long and includes any device (like the frame, receiver, etc.) of such a weapon designed to be used as a weapon. It does NOT have to be capable of being used, which means that it could be a broken or disassembled weapon.

3. If you buy a concealable weapon from a dealer, you have to wait five days from the time you pay for the gun to the time you can go pick it up. In the meantime, the dealer sends copies of your purchase application to the local police in the town where his shop is and to the chief of police in your town (if it is a different one) and to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.

- REMEMBER:
- a. Your local pig department may ask you why you want the gun. You should say that you want it to protect yourself, your home, your family and your property.
  - b. When you go to a dealer, dress fairly straight, and be casual.
  - c. Find out about guns and gun law before you get your piece.

4. If you buy a gun from a private party, they are supposed to wait five days from the time you buy the gun until delivery of the gun to you, but they rarely wait. The seller is NOT required to fill out forms for the police. The seller is not supposed to sell a gun to anyone SHE/HE BELIEVES might be an ex-felon, a non-citizen, a narcotics addict, or a minor.

5. A GOOD WAY TO BUY GUNS IS THROUGH NEWSPAPER ADS, such as the ads in the Oakland Tribune. You can call the owner through the ad.

- REMEMBER:
- a. The seller may be a member of the right-wing, so be prepared to tell him why you want the gun -- to protect yourself, etc.
  - b. Appear casual -- look as straight as you can.
  - c. If the seller doesn't like you, he can turn your name in to the FBI, so be careful.
  - d. If he is too piggish to deal with, just walk out.
  - e. Park your car around the corner from his house. If you decide not to get the gun, and you walk out, he won't be able to get your license number.

6. ANOTHER PLACE TO BUY GUNS IS AT A GUNSHOW. They are usually advertised or you can call a gun dealer to ask where they are held near you. These are legal, and it is just like buying a gun from a private party, only safer and with a large selection. Sellers rarely check you out with the police.

7. When buying or selling a gun, GET A RECEIPT AND KEEP IT. You should always have a record of these transactions. If the police ever have reason to check out your guns later to see if they are stolen, or if you sell a gun to someone else and want to prove it, these receipts will be necessary -- they are your protection. The pigs trace weapons through serial numbers on the gun.

(by the national lawyers guild regional office staff)



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## LEGAL STREET SHEET #5

### WEAPONS -- ON THE STREET

1. There are local, state and federal laws regarding firearms. The police expect you to know them all.
2. A concealable weapon such as a pistol or a revolver is one that is capable of being concealed on the person. It has a barrel less than 12 inches long. It also includes anything like the frame or receiver of such a weapon. It also refers to a broken or disassembled weapon. B-B guns are also included in this definition.
3. According to the law, THESE PEOPLE CANNOT CARRY CONCEALABLE WEAPONS: non-citizens of the U.S., convicted felons where a firearm was involved in the "crime," narcotics addicts, minors under 18 without written permission from their parents, or accompanied by their parents.
4. Under California law, a PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED to buy or own a firearm. But, many cities like San Francisco DO REQUIRE A PERMIT TO BUY A CONCEALABLE WEAPON. If you want to know anything about your city's gun laws, call up the police department, but you might now want to use your own name...
5. REGISTRATION OF A GUN IS DIFFERENT THAN A PERMIT. San Francisco is the only Bay Area city that has this requirement. Concealable weapons are supposed to be registered with the chief of police of San Francisco.
6. IT IS ILLEGAL TO GET CAUGHT CARRYING A CONCEALABLE WEAPON ON YOUR PERSON IN A CONCEALED CONDITION ON THE STREET, unless you have a permit to do so (which you will never get because they have not issued one in 30 years in San Francisco). This does not include the police and their agents.
7. You CAN carry a concealable weapon in an OPEN position, OUTSIDE YOUR CLOTHING in a holster, but it must be UNLOADED. You must also realize that you take certain risks by doing this.
8. NONCONCEALABLE WEAPONS are ones that cannot be concealed on the person such as shotguns or rifles.
9. Convicted felons ARE allowed to carry nonconcealable weapons, as are other citizens over 18. Person between 16 and 18 CAN carry nonconcealable weapons WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION from their parents in their possession. According to the law, these weapons CANNOT be loaded.
10. The term WEAPONS also includes their disassembled parts. A FIREARM IS CONSIDERED LOADED if there is a live cartridge or ammunition attached to the firearm in any manner, including attachment by tape. This includes a clip or magazine.
11. It is ILLEGAL to get caught possessing ANY LOADED WEAPON on any California campuses, on public school property, or at the capitol of the state, the home or office of the governor, or at the legislature or any of its rooms or buildings. Here, "LOADED" means WEAPON AND AMMO FOR THAT WEAPON IN POSSESSION OF THE SAME PERSON AT THE SAME TIME. Also, if one person carries the weapon, and the other person carries the ammo, the law would still consider it illegal.



12. According to the law, the police are ALWAYS allowed to examine a weapon in a public place to see if it is loaded and legal. Refusal to let them do so gives them an opportunity to presume the weapon is loaded and to bust you on that. On property where you are not legally allowed to possess ammo with your weapon at the same time, it would seem that the pigs could search you for ammo.

13. According to the law, EVERY WEAPON MUST HAVE AN IDENTIFICATION NUMBER. It is ILLEGAL to possess a gun without an ID number on it, and if you possess such a gun and the police find it, it is assumed that you rubbed it off (or modified it) which is a separate crime. This is how the police trace weapons -- through ID numbers.

" POLITICAL POWER GROWS OUT OF THE BARREL OF A GUN..."

" ...AN UNARMED PEOPLE IS SUBJECT TO SLAVERY AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT."

(by the regional office staff of the national lawyers guild)



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## LEGAL STREET SHEET #6

### SECURITY -- HOW NOT TO GET BUSTED

#### 1. IN YOUR HOME

- DON'T leave dope lying around. Keep it in a central place, so you can flush it down the toilet quickly.
- Keep your weapons hidden. Everyone in the house should know where they are. People who are visiting and strangers do not need to know that you have weapons. Keep a reasonable number of weapons. Larger stores of weapons should be in very safe places, like in a house that could not be linked to the movement.
- Kim Il Sung says, "You should think of camouflage first of all when you build a house..." If you don't want to be hassled or are into secret activity, DON'T put signs or political slogans in your window -- otherwise you are advertising who you are.

#### 2. IN YOUR CAR

- DON'T carry more dope than you can eat, unless you know it's absolutely safe. DON'T carry dope in your glove compartment or under the seat, because it is the first place that pigs look. The best place to carry dope is in your underwear or in your shoe.
- If you don't want to be hassled by the pigs, DON'T put bumper stickers, NLF flags, or pictures on your car.
- Keep your lights and other parts of your car in good condition so you won't get stopped by the police.
- Pay parking tickets so you don't get busted on a warrant.

#### 3. ON YOUR PERSON

- DON'T carry more dope than you can eat, unless it's absolutely safe. The best place to carry it is in your underwear or in your shoe, NOT in your pocket, but remember that you want to be able to get to it quick.
- DON'T carry any phone numbers (except a legal defense office's) or address books in demonstrations or situations where you might be busted (like postering, etc).

#### 4. DON'T SELL DOPE TO PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW. DON'T BUY DOPE FROM PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW WELL. MOST PEOPLE ARE BUSTED ON DOPE BY INFORMERS AND UNDERCOVER NARC AGENTS.

#### 5. OPERATE ON A "NEED-TO-KNOW" BASIS

- Avoid information it is not necessary for you to know.
- Don't spread information that others do not need to know.

#### 6. DON'T GIVE OUT NAMES TO PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW.

- Never say anything that might implicate your friends in a crime, or infer that they know something about it.

#### 7. DON'T TALK ABOUT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY OR SECRET INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU HARDLY KNOW.

- Don't let anyone involve you in such a discussion, if you don't know them well.
- If you are suspicious of anyone, check out their background and references.

#### 8. DON'T ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE FBI. LEGALLY, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO.

- If the FBI keeps bothering you, refer them to your lawyer.
- Don't look at any pictures that the FBI tries to show you.
- Don't admit anything. Don't confirm any information.
- If you have reason to think that the FBI is investigating you, warn your friends, parents and employer is she/he is cool. Tell them that they are not required to say anything, and should remain silent.

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## 9. ASSUME ALL TELEPHONES ARE BUGGED.

- Avoid unnecessary mysterious comments.
- Never talk about dope or illegal activity over the phone.
- If you must talk over the phone, arrange a time when someone can call you from one pay phone to another. You might say, "We have a bad connection and I can't hear you. Can you call me back at this number?" That should be a clue to the person on the other end to go to a pay phone and call you at the pay phone you are calling from.

## 10. BUGGING DEVICES

- Telephones can be bugged while they are on or off the hook. If you must talk in the house, keep the radio on, preferably to classical music which has the best interference, and talk lower than the radio.
- Assume that your car may be bugged. If you must talk in your car, move in a wide radius, between tall buildings, for the best interference. Keep the radio on, and talk lower than the music. Be extra careful if the people in the car should not be seen together. Don't act suspicious.
- Bugging devices can work up to 500 yards, and sometimes more. If you don't want to talk inside a building, don't go outside and stand next to it.
- The phone company works with the police. Be aware of telephone trucks parked outside your house or building. Notice if the phone company comes out to work on your lines. Be aware if the phone company is in your area often.
- The best protection against bugging devices is to write simple messages down, but remember to burn them afterward.

## 11. ASSUME ALL MAIL MAY BE OPENED AND READ. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WRITE.

- If you must use the mail for certain communications, use a prearranged code and don't sign the letter, or
- Use a public typewriter, such as one in a library, if you want to type something that you don't want linked to you.

## 12. MEETINGS

- Don't meet regularly at the same place and time. Change the time and place because people and pigs get suspicious when they see a group of people meeting at the same house a lot. You never know when the pigs are watching your house, or when a neighbor might want to know what is going on.
- If a meeting should be kept quiet, then only the people who need to be there should know about it.
- Don't discuss illegal acts, unless there is no possible evidence of conspiracy, and only with people you know well.
- If a meeting must be out-of-doors for protection against bugging devices, it should be away from all buildings. People should look casual, and walk around to prevent lips from being read through binoculars. Don't act suspicious or mysterious.
- Unless necessary, only first names should be used.

## 13. PETITIONS, LISTS AND MAPS

- Don't sign anything that you haven't read thoroughly first.
- Don't put your name on a list unless you know what the list will be used for and who is going to keep the list. If you don't want everyone on the list to have your name or phone number, it's best not to sign it.
- Don't let anyone mark your house on a map with your address on it. It's a possibility that the map could fall into someone's hands who will draw the wrong (or right) conclusions.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS SECURITY PARANOIA. THINGS ARE GETTING HEAVIER. UNDERCOVER PIGS ARE INCREASING. ALWAYS BE CAUTIOUS.

(by the regional office staff of the national lawyers guild)