

# THE SAFETY PAGE



BRAVO/Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization/[www.bravo-ohio.org](http://www.bravo-ohio.org)/[report@bravo-ohio.org](mailto:report@bravo-ohio.org)/866-86-BRAVO

Find us on: Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BRAVOAVP](https://www.facebook.com/BRAVOAVP) Twitter: @BRAVOAVP

## Staying Safe with the police

### *Trans\* Safety Tips*

At times, police officers wrongly treat trans\* identified people as “suspicious characters.” Thinking about what you would do before you get into a tough situation can sometimes make a huge difference. *For specific legal rights and advice, consult an attorney.*

#### 1. Stay Calm

*If approached, don't panic or try to run. Be respectful, don't touch the officer, don't resist, and/or don't respond to anti-trans gestures or remarks. For your own safety and wellbeing, don't challenge the officer while they have the upper hand.*

#### 2. Carry an ID

*If the name and/or gender marker does not match your gender identity, tell the officer that your birth name is not the name that you go by.*

#### 3. Say as little as possible

*Things you say can be used against you. If you are arrested, say nothing unless your lawyer is present. Be very careful talking to other arrestees – they may be police informants.*

#### 4. You don't have to consent to a search

*However, officers can pat down your clothing if they suspect you are carrying a weapon.*

#### 5. You have a right to an attorney

*If you are arrested, calmly ask why and immediately ask to speak to an attorney. If you can't afford an attorney, you have a right to a free attorney.*

#### 6. You have options

*You can ask to be taken to a hospital if you need medical attention or require time-sensitive medications. You can also request to be held in an area other than the general detention cell if you feel that your safety is at risk.*

## REPORT police misconduct

If you are injured as a result of police misconduct, seek medical attention and document the incident. Take photographs and write down everything that happened as soon as possible while it is clear in your memory. Include descriptions, the officer's name, badge numbers, patrol car numbers and whether witnesses were present. Know that an officer must have a reasonable suspicion that you have committed a crime in order to detain you. After the incident, if you feel you have been mistreated, report what happened to BRAVO, toll free at 866-86-BRAVO.

---

These safety tips are adapted from a brochure produced by the Community & Police Relations Program of the Anti-Violence Project (New York, NY), and the Gender Identity Project of the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center (New York, NY).

**Report it to BRAVO at 866-86-BRAVO** If you experience violence, it is not your fault.

## Hanging Out and Hooking Up?

*Here are some tips to do it safely...*

BRAVO has documented incidents of internet and dating app related harassment, assault, and robbery. Don't let people on the internet or anywhere lead you to unsafe situations. Chatting with someone online - even over a long period of time - may give you a false sense of security about them. Remember - you really don't know them. Talking through the internet is nothing like having a face-to-face assessment of a person. Play it safe, and if you have problems, call BRAVO at 866-86-BRAVO.

### 1. Move at your own pace

*Don't let someone rush you. Lay the groundwork with chatting - if you feel comfortable to do so, then you can move on to email. Always chat and email for a while before setting up any personal meetings.*

### 2. The whole chat room doesn't need your email address

*Instead of posting your email address in a chat room, request that this be done via instant messaging for private talk.*

### 3. Be cautious about giving personal information.

*Remember: if you tell someone where you live, where you work, or your phone number, they may call or show up before you are ready.*

### 4. You can block caller ID if you decide to call.

*Stay in control of the situation. If you agree to a phone call, be the caller, and block your outgoing caller ID information. (dialing \*67 from any phone will block this information)*

### 5. Tell someone else about any public meeting.

*If you decide to meet someone, choose a familiar coffee house, restaurant, or bar. Tell a friend that you are meeting an online acquaintance and agree to call your friend at a pre-arranged time to say how it's going (then be sure to call them). Give your friend the person's email address and all that you know about them.*

### 6. Set your own boundaries.

*You know where your comfort zone is - stay there. Don't be pressured to divulge information or do things that take you out of that zone. Cybersex is ok for some people and not ok for others. Know which type of a person you are.*

### 7. As with staying safe in any situation - trust your instincts.

*Look for red flags. If it feels like something isn't right, it probably isn't.*