

There are many different types of security.

This information applies to guards that patrol property such as malls, stores, restaurants, banks and sidewalks.

These guards are not police but most are licensed by BC law. Licensed guards carry an ID card and security license and must produce both when asked.

If you feel a guard has discriminated against you because of your race, disability, etc., contact the BC Human Rights Coalition at 604-689-8474 (toll-free at 1-877-689-8474) or at info@bchrcoalition.org.

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SECURITY AND YOU

Interacting with Security Guards that patrol property

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

THE ROLE OF SECURITY IN PUBLIC PLACES

All property belongs to someone. Owners can make rules about the use of their property including rules about prohibited activities.

These rules can't discriminate because of disability or race, etc., and they must be applied to all people in a fair manner.

- Security guards ensure rules are followed and can ban you from property if you don't obey them. Guards are not allowed to hassle you if you're following the rules and obeying the law.
- Guards' powers of arrest and search are limited. To make an arrest, a guard must see you commit a crime or see you run from someone who has authority to arrest you. Once arrested, guards must hand you over to police as soon after as possible.
- Guards can't search you without your consent unless you've been arrested. Consent is sometimes a requirement for entry to events such as a concert. If arrested, anything more than a pat-down for weapons, or a search for evidence that relates to the reason you were arrested, is prohibited.

I HAVE A RIGHT:

- To receive the same level of treatment and courtesy as others regardless of my ancestry, colour, place of origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, marital or family status or any combination of these factors.
- To be judged by my actions, not my appearance.
- To ask why I am being banned from property and to see the guard's license.
- To know why I'm being detained or arrested and to keep silent and speak with a lawyer.
- To report a guard that abuses me, swears at me, or violates my rights to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Call 250-387-3374 in Victoria or Service BC for toll-free access (604-660-2421 in Vancouver, 1-800-663-7867 elsewhere). It's important to know the guard's license number, the company they work for and particulars of what was said or done.
- If you need help with the above Ministry complaint process, contact the BC Civil Liberties Association at 604-630-9754 or at info@bccla.org. Also see the website below for more information.