



The Washington
Legal Clinic for the Homeless
A Voice for Housing and Justice

If You are Experiencing Homelessness in D.C.—

Please look out for yourself and your neighbors. It is not currently safe to stay outside. In particular, avoid federal land. Go inside, if you can. If you or someone you know needs emergency shelter, please contact D.C.'s shelter hotline at (202) 399-7093 or dial 311.

If you are approached by local or federal police:

1 Stay Calm

Say “I am exercising my right to be silent” and “I do not consent to a search of my body or property.”



2 Move Belongings

If your belongings are on federal land or blocking the sidewalk, passageway, and/or business, offer to move to a better place or to pack up the tent.



3 Ask if you are free to leave

If told yes, leave. If told no, try to remember everything you can about the arresting officer (uniform, badge number, name) and any witnesses. Immediately state, “I want to speak to a lawyer.” It’s safer to comply and challenge actions later.



4 Call us

If you need civil legal assistance and/or help connecting to resources, call us at (202)328-5500

