

**If your belongings aren't at the DPW lot or have been destroyed by City workers, your next option is to file a claim.**

- Claim needs to be filed within 6 months.
- Take pictures of your belongings (before confiscated) to file with your claim as well as any witness statements.

• You can get a claim form at [www.sfcityattorney.org/claims/](http://www.sfcityattorney.org/claims/)

• You can also get a claim form (and help filling it out) at the Coalition on Homelessness office or at the Free Legal Services Clinic.

**If your claim is denied or you don't get a response in 45 days the next step is to file a small claims lawsuit against the City.**

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**There may be a class action lawsuit filed against the City for these human rights violations, so bring your claim forms to the Coalition on Homelessness office or to the Free Legal Services Clinic.**

**Free Legal Services Clinic**

**Glide- 330 Ellis Street**

**Monday & Thursday- 2pm-5pm**

At the clinic you can get:

- ≡ Brief legal advice
- ≡ Referrals to other organizations
- ≡ Information
- ≡ Limited legal services

Questions? Email [legalclinic@glide.org](mailto:legalclinic@glide.org) or call 415-674-6149

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**Coalition on Homelessness  
468 Turk St. @ Larkin  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415-346-3740**

**Monday-Thursday**

**9:am-5:00pm**

**Friday- 9am-noon**

**[www.cohsf.org](http://www.cohsf.org)**

**Citation Defense**

Do you have unpaid homeless related tickets from SFPD?

Monday & Wednesday 10am-Noon

**Join the Struggle!**

Human Rights Workgroup meetings every Wednesday 12:30-2:30 PM @ 468 Turk St.

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**When you're homeless, knowing the law...**



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## **Your Rights with Cops in Public Places**

### **Protect Your Belongings**

- **Photograph your belongings**, keep receipt, etc. Any way to document.
- **Tag your belongings** with your contact information to show it's not abandoned. Take a photo of the tag.

### **What to do when you encounter enforcement:**

- Remain calm and cool!
  - Ask for their card- or look for badge #.
- ### **Right to remain silent**
- If cops try to question you ask, "Am I being detained or am I free to go?"
  - If you are free to go, you may walk away. If you are being detained, you still do not have to answer any questions.
  - If you want to be cited out after an arrest, you may need to prove your name, address, and birthday to the officer.

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### **Right to an Attorney**

If you are arrested, you have the right to an attorney. If you ask for an attorney to be present, cops must stop questioning you.

### **Right to be free from searches**

- If cops are detaining you, they may pat you down for weapons. But they are not allowed to look through your pockets or your things.
- If cops want to search you, you should tell them and witness, "I do not consent to this search." It may not stop the search but it may stop them from using things they find against you.

### **If you are on probation and parole**

- You still have the same rights to remain silent and to have an attorney if you are arrested.
- You probably waived the right to be free from searches for the duration of your probation/parole. But, you still should not verbally consent to a search.

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### **What to do if your belongings have been taken by the City...**

We recommend doing this within 72 hours!

- When SF police take property from a sidewalk they are **supposed** to bring it to the Department of Public Works yard where it is supposed to be held for **90 days**, a period specified by California law.
- ### **DPW Procedure**

Items picked up by the DPW are bagged and tagged. DPW will NOT bag wet or moldy clothing, wet or moldy bedrolls or food items (or anything else with health concerns). The tag on the bagged items **should** include:

- Date and time of the pickup
- Location of the pickup
- Name of the owner (if known)
- Brief description of the contents
- SFPD badge number (if involved)

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### **To get your belongings back:**

The location of the DPW Storage Yard is **2323 Cesar Chavez St.** (intersection of Kansas and Marin). Open Tuesday through Saturday 9am to 3pm. Ask the guard at the gate for assistance.

Before going to the yard be prepared to provide the following information. Without this information, the DPW employees may not be able to help you.

- Date and time of the pickup
- Location of the pickup
- Description of the items
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If there is no guard at the gate, call for Public Works staff on the intercom, or call the Radio Room at **415-695-2134** & someone from DPW will come to assist you.

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