

# I. KNOW MY RIGHTS

**CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS WHEN SLEEPING ROUGH**

## **WHAT IS THE LAW?**

It's now a crime to gather outdoors with more than five other people, or indoors with any other person, unless for a reason listed in the regulations.

For example, you can gather in groups of more than six people where this is reasonably necessary to provide voluntary or charitable services, or to escape a risk of harm.

## **WHAT ELSE HAS CHANGED?**

It's also a crime to stay overnight at any place other than where you're living without a reasonable excuse. But this isn't a crime if you're homeless.

## WHAT CAN THE POLICE DO?

If you're homeless and police question you about why you're outside during the coronavirus crisis, you should tell them you're homeless or show them this postcard.

If you have accommodation but you're scared to return to it, you should tell the police. The police should work with you to find ways to keep you safe.

Police have new powers to issue a fixed penalty notice, which is a fine you can pay to avoid criminal liability. If police fine you, you should look for legal advice (see right).

## IF YOU ARE ARRESTED:

- Police should identify themselves as the police.
- Police should tell you that you're being arrested and why.
- Try to remain calm and don't resist arrest.

## AT THE POLICE STATION:

- You have the right to get free legal advice – ask for a duty solicitor.
- You have the right to tell someone where you are.
- You have the right to get medical help if you're feeling unwell.
- You should tell police if you're having mental health issues.

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### LIBERTY

Advice and information about your human rights:  
[advice@libertyhumanrights.org.uk](mailto:advice@libertyhumanrights.org.uk)

### THE LAW SOCIETY

Find a lawyer: 020 7320 5650  
(Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)

### CITIZENS ADVICE

Telephone: 03444 111 444 or  
Text relay: 03444 111 445

### SHELTER

Urgent advice about housing if you are or could be homeless:  
0808 800 4444 (Weekdays:  
8am-8pm; Weekends: 9am-5pm)

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

Advice if you are experiencing domestic abuse or violence:  
0808 2000 247  
(freephone, 24-hours a day)

### SAMARITANS

Emotional support: 116 123  
(freephone, 24-hours a day)

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