

Massachusetts Muslims, Know Your Rights! What to do if the FBI comes calling

CAIR-MA believes that you should tell law enforcement about known threats to public safety. But too often, the FBI targets Muslims who aren't suspected of any crime. Instead, they are looking for information about you, your family, and associates, under the assumption that Muslims are somehow dangerous, to see if it leads them to anything useful. They may even ask you about your religious beliefs, your Imam, and what you talk about at your mosque – even though you have the Constitutional right to worship and think as you choose.

So what should you do if the FBI comes calling? The answer is easy:

- Don't talk to them.
- Ask for their business card.
- Tell them your lawyer will contact them. Then call CAIR-MA or another lawyer.
- We can then call the FBI for you, to find out what they want to talk about.
- You can then decide if you want to speak with them.

Visits to your home. Muslim Advocates created an excellent [video](#) explaining what to do (and what NOT to do) if the FBI shows up at your home. Don't invite the FBI into your home. Instead, step outside, close the door behind you, and follow the steps listed above.

Visits to your workplace. Lead the FBI agents away from your desk, if possible to a place that is private. Then follow the steps listed above.

Phone calls. Ask for the agent's name. Then follow the steps listed above.

Why not talk to them? I haven't done anything wrong. Often, the FBI already knows the answers to many of the questions they are asking. It's a federal crime to lie to an FBI agent. If, for example, they ask about an old friend and you give an answer that's not entirely accurate, they may try to use that to coerce you into becoming an informant. It's just not worth the risk. Talk to CAIR-MA or another lawyer first. Find out what they want to talk about, so you can make an informed decision.

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