

Photographer's Legal Rights Card

Photographers have a right to photograph public activities that occur in a public space, or which are photographed from a public space. This includes but is not limited to sidewalks, streets, public transportation systems, plazas, parks, and other places that the public is allowed to be. Attempts to prevent this photographer from exercising these rights may subject you to criminal and civil penalties for harassment and coercion.

Instructions:

Cut out this card and carry it in your wallet or camera bag. If confronted by somebody who is not familiar with the laws protecting a photographer's right to take photos in and of public spaces, hand them the card. Often people are more likely to react favorably when shown a document than when given an argument.

Remember: Although the law gives you the right to take photographs, somebody can still try and stop you. If you are facing arrest, physical violence, or the possibility of having your camera confiscated, it's best to avoid physical confrontation. And your best first step is to smile.

If you are being confronted by a security guard who is not a police officer while you are on public property, you also have the option of calling the police yourself, if you feel threatened.

In the United States there are *no laws* barring the photography of buildings, bridges, tunnels, industrial plants and other structures – or of people. You may not trespass to take photographs, and you may not be allowed to create an impediment to traffic, pedestrians or safety, but the act of photography is protected.

Created by Bill Adler Photography as a public service,
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