

Rules of Engagement The Proper Procedures When Demonstrating

As Americans, we have the right to peacefully assemble and demonstrate.

In assembling and demonstrating in the public square, we must always remember that our conduct should be civilized even towards those that disagree with us. We need to remember that they have constitutional rights as well. Violating their rights is wrong and will not be tolerated. Just because they may behave in an uncivilized manner, does not permit us to do the same. We must follow all the proper rules and laws, and demand civil authorities hold others to that same standard. This is how responsible people should always act.

The rules that are set forth in this paper are to be adhered to by all participants.

- Be courteous and kind, insofar as it is possible under the circumstances.
- Abstain from the use of foul language. Some people are offended by such talk and there may be children around. We need to respect that.
- Do not hit, bump, shove, trip, or otherwise touch with the intent to harm another person. The only time that touching another person in this way may be understandable, is in self defense when being attacked. Also, do not rip signs or banners out of opposing demonstrators hands. They have the right to be there too.
- You cannot demonstrate in shopping center parking lots, in the street, or on private land [unless invited to do so by the owner]. If demonstrating on the sidewalk, you must do it in such a way so as not to block pedestrian traffic. They have the right of way.
- Always abide by the instructions of law enforcement officials. If their instruction is wrong, we will challenge it later. It is your responsibility to obey them. They are there to maintain good public order.
- Remember that you represent all of us. Always be aware that there may be a camera or microphone that you do not see. There are those that do that sort of thing, looking for the next newspaper headline or lead story on TV. You'll never know that they are there. Don't give that to them, because that is all the public will see for the next month.
- Act with honor, integrity, and civility at all times. Make the best impression.