



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As Holiday Weekend Approaches, ACLU Issues Alert To Alaskans Traveling To Arizona
Arizona Racial Profiling Law Threatens Civil Liberties

ANCHORAGE, AK, June 30, 2010 – In response to civil liberties threats caused by the recent passage of Arizona’s racial profiling law, the American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska (ACLU) issued a travel alert today informing Alaskans of their rights when stopped by law enforcement when traveling in Arizona. The unconstitutional law, known as SB 1070, requires law enforcement agents to demand "papers" from people they stop who they suspect are not authorized to be in the U.S. If individuals are unable to prove to officers that they are permitted to be in the U.S., they may be subject to warrantless arrest without any probable cause that they have committed a crime.

Although the law is not scheduled to go into effect until July 29, the ACLU is concerned that some law enforcement officers are already beginning to act on provisions of the law. Moreover, there has been a history of rampant racial profiling by law enforcement in Arizona, especially in Maricopa County, as well as a stated anti-immigrant policy of “attrition through enforcement” by Arizona lawmakers meant to create a hostile enough environment for Latinos and other people of color that they voluntarily leave the state.

Jeffrey Mittman, Executive Director of the ACLU of Alaska stated: “In our continuing effort to educate Alaskan about their constitutional rights and civil liberties, we want travelers to know that under Arizona’s law, people who look ‘foreign’ may be stopped for minor infractions and asked for residency document. We have placed information on our website – www.akclu.org – to advise all Alaskan travelers of their rights in this situation.”

The materials include a downloadable card with instructions – applicable in any state – on coping with vehicle stops and questioning by police, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents or the FBI, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions document about SB 1070.

The ACLU and other leading civil rights organizations filed a [lawsuit](#) challenging the Arizona law in May, but until the law is struck down, the ACLU warns that individuals traveling in Arizona must be aware of their rights if stopped there.

Materials informing individuals of their rights when stopped by law enforcement and more information about the Arizona law, including an ACLU video and slide show, can be found at: <http://www.aclu.org/what-happens-arizona-stops-arizona>.

Materials informing individuals of their rights when stopped by law enforcement optimized for mobile devices is available at: mobile.aclu.org

More information about the ACLU’s lawsuit, including information on co-counsel and plaintiffs, can be found at: www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights-racial-justice/aclu-and-civil-rights-groups-file-legal-challenge-arizona-racial-pr.

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