

What to do in Case of a Police Raid?

Prostitution is legal. Don't let the authorities confuse or intimidate you!

Officials often ask you to answer many questions, through which you can too easily incriminate yourself or bring problems upon yourself. You should always ask first who is conducting the raid (police, Customs, tax officials or state prosecutors) and what is it for (criminal investigation, tax inspection or under-the-table or illegal work inspection).

If you're not a fluent German speaker, you should demand that the authorities bring an interpreter.

When you make statements to the authorities, make sure that a written statement is kept in the form of questions and answers. Read the written statement carefully, make changes if something is incorrect and refuse to sign it if the proper changes are not made. Ask for a copy of the written statement, or create your own summary of the statement.

Tax Investigation

The tax authorities, known as 'Steuerfahndung', investigate tax-related crimes and offenses.

What You Have to Do

- If you have a tax number – you have to give your name and tax number and show your ID or passport.
- If you are participating in the Düsseldorf Procedure, known as "Düsseldorfer Verfahren" (and are paying 30€ a day flatrate taxes), give out your stage name only – nothing else!

You Don't Have to

- Answer directly on the spot to tax investigation-related questions, but rather you can demand that these questions be sent to you in writing.
- Testify or make a statement that may be used to incriminate you in a tax-related offense. Should the officials insist on an immediate response, contact a lawyer to provide you with legal aid and point out to them that answering may come at the risk of forced self-incrimination.

Berlin Customs

Customs and Border Police, or "Zoll", carry out inspections on illegal employment and undeclared work.

What You Have to Do

- Give out personal details through which you can be identified, like first and last name, your original birth name, place of birth, birth date, marital status, current employment, place of residence and nationality.
- Show a foreign passport or residence permit.
- Show documents (like notebooks, planners or calendars) which suggest the nature, extent and duration of your

employment. Don't show anything else!

You Don't Have to

- Say anything that is self-incriminating. It is your right to refuse altogether to give a statement or to lie. With every question you should carefully consider whether there is a possibility that you may be incriminating yourself. If so – refuse to provide information. If the officials object to this, call a lawyer to provide you with legal aid. If not – provide the necessary information.

The Police/ State Bureau of Criminal Investigations

The police investigates crimes and misdemeanors.

What You Have to Do

- Give out personal details through which you can be identified, like first and last name, your original birth name, place of birth, birth date, marital status, current employment, place of residence and nationality.
- Show a foreign passport or residence permit. Don't show anything else!

You Don't Have to

- Testify or make a statement if the case is being handled by the police.
- Testify or make any statement if the state prosecution or the criminal investigation is targeted against you. Especially in the case of a criminal charge – you don't have to incriminate yourself! If the authorities object, a lawyer that can serve as a legal aid should be called.
- Testify or make any statement that the state prosecution can use to incriminate any third party and which may later be used to incriminate you as well.

Identity-Control Raids

In contrast to other forms of raids, this sort of a raid is against a group of people. It employs the tactic of earlier preparation in order to block by surprise a given location or workplace with the aim of verifying the identity of a larger group of people.

According to the joint police and administrative law in Berlin article ASOG Bln § 21 No. 1, the police has the right to establish the identity of a person when they catch a person in a place where people engage in prostitution.

In this case, all those present on site must present their identity card, passport, and visa documents or residence permits allowing the right to stay in Germany (which are called either Aufenthaltstitel, Aufenthaltskarte or Aufenthaltserlaubnis).

Whoever cannot identify his or herself by providing the proper documents will be taken to the police station for the purposes of identification.

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