

The police have the power to issue an on-the-spot fine or charge someone for a public space offence.

If you're given an on-the-spot fine for a public space offence you should pay it within 28 days, otherwise the fine will increase. Talk to a lawyer if you think you've been wrongfully fined.

You should also talk to a lawyer if you're charged by the police for a public space offence because you'll have to go to court. If you're found guilty you can be given a heavy fine, but the maximum penalty for some public space offences is a prison sentence.

## PUBLIC SPACE OFFENCES

Being drunk in a public place

Being drunk and disorderly in a public place

Behaving in a disorderly manner in a public place

Behaving in an offensive, indecent or insulting manner in a public place

Using obscene, indecent or threatening language in a public place

Disobeying a direction to move on

# PUBLIC SPACE

The police also have the power to issue a direction to move on.

The police can ask you to move on and stay away from a public place if they think you're behaving in a way that's:

- Disturbing or is likely to disturb the peace
- Dangerous or is likely to be dangerous to another person
- Likely to cause injury to another person or damage to their property

The police can give you a direction to move on verbally – it doesn't have to be in writing.

If the police give you a direction to move on they'll specify how long you have to stay away from the public place. It can be up to 24 hours.

If you refuse to move on or return to the public place before the specified time is up you can be given an on-the-spot fine or charged with an offence.

You can make a complaint about a police officer who's done the wrong thing.

If you want to make a complaint about the police record as much information about the incident as you can. If you've been injured take photos and see a doctor.

Contact a lawyer at a community legal centre who'll give you free legal advice and help you make the complaint. Remember that most police complaints are investigated by the police.