Getting your things back after a camp sweep

- Law enforcement must store personal property (other than junk or unsanitary items) for at least 30 days.

- If you are present at the camp when it is being swept, ask for a property receipt.

- If you know the law enforcement agency that swept your camp, call and ask where and when you can pick up your property.

- If you do not know the law enforcement agency, call local police and ask for assistance. A social service provider may also be able to help you.

- If you cannot recover your property and you think law enforcement may have violated the law, seek legal assistance as soon as possible.

To find a legal aid office near you: www.oregonlawhelp.org
Your Basic Rights

- Whether or not you are a United States citizen, you have rights under the United States Constitution.

- You have the right to remain silent, and the right to say no to a search of you or your belongings.

- Police may detain you for questioning if the officer has reasonable suspicion that you have been involved in a crime.

- Police may pat down your clothing if they suspect a concealed weapon. But you do not have to consent to any further search of yourself, your belongings, your house or your car.

Homeless Camping in Oregon

- You can camp on private property with permission. Otherwise, trespass laws can be enforced against you.

- Camping on public property is prohibited under many city and county ordinances, and on state lands under state law.

- Law enforcement may remove homeless camps from public property under certain conditions.

- You have the right not to lose your property without a fair legal process.

- Law enforcement must
  - Post notice in English & Spanish at least 24 hours before removing camps.
  - Inform a local social service agency 24 hours before removing camps.
  - Store all personal property for at least 30 days.
  - Make stored property reasonably available to anyone claiming to own it.

- The 24-hour-notice requirement does not apply when
  - other illegal activities may be occurring at the camp, or
  - if there is an emergency or immediate danger.

Other Legal Issues

- **Panhandling:** You have the right to ask people for money, as long as you are respectful and not aggressive.

- **Vehicles:** Sleeping in your car is OK unless you are violating other traffic or parking laws.

- **Exclusion Zones:** Some cities have laws that allow law enforcement to exclude you from parks and other public places. You have the right to appeal exclusions.

- **Sidewalks:** Some cities have laws that regulate sidewalk use. You can find out more about local laws online or at your library.

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*See ORS 203.077 to 203.081*