



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Street performance, like other forms of artistic expression, is protected by the First Amendment. But freedom of speech is not absolute; the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that local, state and federal governments may enact reasonable time, place and manner restrictions that address legitimate societal concerns. This brief guide is designed to clarify your rights.

Street performers do not need permits or licenses and are not specifically regulated by the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County or the municipalities located within the County. Street performers are permitted to engage in their performance activities so long as laws, statutes or ordinances are not violated.

Street performance is allowed in public areas. “Public area” means and includes any public sidewalk, alley, path, park, playground or public right of way or easement located in any nonresidential dwelling district. Performers are encouraged to consult the St. Louis Street Performers United Best Practices Guidelines for information on certain restricted areas and recommended performance hours.

Street performers may request and accept money at a performance.

Street performers may offer for sale representations and recordings of their own work, including CDs, DVDs, records, videotapes and cassettes.

Street performers must obey noise ordinances. Performers may use amplification as long as accepted sound levels are not exceeded. For more information regarding what constitutes intrusive noise, consult the St. Louis Street Performers United Best Practices Guidelines.

Street performers may not block the passage of the public through public areas, obstruct the entrance to or exit from public or private property or jeopardize the public safety.

Street performers must obey the laws against disorderly persons and conduct, including laws prohibiting aggressive panhandling.

We rely on the police, park rangers and other security officers to keep our communities safe and to treat us fairly. Think carefully about your words, movement, body language and emotions when approached by law enforcement officials. In the unlikely event of arrest, you have the right to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud. You have the right to a lawyer; ask for one immediately. If you are not under arrest, you have the right to calmly leave.