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Police and Emergency — Your Rights and Important Numbers

Emergency numbers, filing reports, your rights during police checks, and help for crime victims. Status: March 2026.

Deutsche Begriffe: Polizei | Notruf | Anzeige | Rechte | Opferhilfe

Police and Emergency — Your Rights and Important Numbers

> Status: March 2026. All information without guarantee.

Emergency Numbers

Number	When	Who arrives	
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110	Police (crime, danger, accident)	Police	
112	Fire brigade / Ambulance (fire, medical emergency)	Fire brigade / Emergency doctor	
116 117	Medical on-call service (not life-threatening)	Doctor / Advice	
0800 111 0 111	Telephone crisis counseling (24/7, free, anonymous)	Psychological help	
0800 111 0 222	Telephone crisis counseling (alternative)	Psychological help	

08000 116 016	Helpline Violence against women	Advice in 18 languages	
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112 works throughout Europe and is free — even without a SIM card.

Filing a Report

When to file a report?

- For **every crime** (theft, fraud, assault, threats, discrimination)
- Even based on **suspicion** — the police will investigate

How?

- **In person** at any police station (no appointment needed)
- **Online** in many states (police online reporting)
- **By phone** at 110 (in case of immediate danger)

Interpreter:

- You have the right to an **interpreter** at the police — free of charge!
- Ask for one directly at the entrance

Your Rights During a Police Check

- You must **identify yourself** (passport, residence permit always with you)
- You have the right to know **why** you are being stopped
- You do not have to **make a statement** about an accusation (right to remain silent)
- You have the right to a **lawyer** (if arrested: immediately!)
- **Racial profiling** is prohibited — if you suspect it, you can file a complaint

Help for Crime Victims

- **Weißer Ring** (weisser-ring.de) — free victim support, accompaniment to police and court
- **Victim assistance** in every major city — psychological and legal counseling
- **Court cost assistance** for victims with low income

- **Victim Compensation Act** — state compensation for victims of violence

Tips

- **Save emergency numbers in your phone** (for children too!)
- For **domestic violence**: 08000 116 016 (free, anonymous, 18 languages)
- **Filing a report is free** — it has no negative consequences for your residence status
- **Photograph documents** (passport, residence permit) — in case they are stolen