1. **You have the right to not go through electronic strip search** (aka AIT, MMW, WBI)
   ... but if you are “selected” (e.g. “SSSS” mark) and choose not to go through, you will get an “enhanced pat down”
   ... and even if you do go through, you might get an “enhanced pat down” anyway

2. **You have the right to a patdown by someone the same gender** as you present yourself
   ... unless they’re short staffed—but you must be told so before going through the metal detector

3. **You have the right to have patdowns witnessed by someone of your choice**
   ... so long as they’re allowed to be there at all (e.g. they’re flying with you)

4. **You have the right to have patdowns conducted in private**

5. **You have the right to have your belongings in view** at all times
   ... but not to access / touch them

6. **You have the right to take photos/videos** in public areas, and to **not delete** anything
   ... except of xray screens, or if it would interfere with / slow down screening
   ... except if the airport, state, county, or city has a rule/law against it

7. **You have the right not to be touched** by anyone without your consent
   ... except the minimum “necessary to detect weapons or explosives”
   ... but you must be **told before being touched** how you will be touched, and **consent**
   ... except when being detained or arrested by **police** (not TSA)

8. **You have the right to carry unlimited medical supplies** (e.g. juice, insulin, breast milk, etc.)
   ... but may be asked (not required) to prove it’s medical, and must declare it upfront
   ... except if the airport, state, county, or city has a rule/law against it

9. **TSA employees do not have the right to detain you** because they are **not police**
   ... but they can call the police, who can detain you, and in ½ of US states, can demand ID also

**Remember**

1. “**I opt out** of going through electronic strip search.”
2. “**I consent** to search that is no more extensive nor intensive than necessary to detect the presence of weapons or explosives. Although I will not physically resist, any further contact is unlawful assault and battery.”
3. “**Please bring your STSO** (supervisor; 3 bar epaulet) / **TSM** (transportation screening manager) / **a police officer**.”
4. **Do not physically resist;** sue them later instead
5. **Do not argue** with poorly trained TSOs; get a higher ranking officer and **call the TSA Ombudsman**.
6. **Expect to be harassed** or to wait an extra hour. Exercising your rights may be difficult.
7. **Write down the name, job title, and badge number** of everyone you interact with.
8. **Post your experiences online** (especially audio, photos, & videos) ASAP.
9. **Call your senators and representatives**; tell them how you feel.
10. **File formal complaints** and **tell the ACLU/EPIC** as appropriate.
11. **Smile!** Address people politely by name, don’t take it personally, have compassion, and be confident asserting your rights.

**Contacts**

- **TSA Ombudsman** (to correct misinformed TSOs on policy) 877 266 2837
- **TSA Public Affairs** (for media and photo/video issues) 571 227 2829
- **US Congress Switchboard** (to call your senators & representatives) 202 224 3121
- **TSA Office of Civil Rights** (to file a complaint) 877 336 4872
- **DHS Office of Civil Rights** (to file a complaint) 866 644 8360
- **FBI HQ** (to file a complaint under 18USC242, “deprivation of rights under color of law”) 202 324 3000
- **TSA Switchboard** (to talk to “office of chief counsel” for legal/policy issues) 866 289 9673

**URL**

- is.gd/ihEwf
- is.gd/ihEHd
- is.gd/ihF11
- is.gd/ihFkn
- is.gd/ihEfc#4
- is.gd/ihJ0Y
- is.gd/ihFu6
- is.gd/ihJJe
- is.gd/ihDsR
- is.gd/ihEfc#4
- is.gd/ihEfc#4
- bit.ly/eNvwqQ
- bit.ly/g3bP4t
- dontscan.me
- is.gd/ihLjz
- is.gd/ihLyr
- is.gd/ihLyr
- is.gd/ihLNq
- is.gd/ihDFX
- is.gd/ihDFX
- bit.ly/aclutsa
- bit.ly/epictsa
General rules: don’t capture X-ray screens or cause congestion; commercial/pro, get permit first; otherwise unrestricted. Only call these numbers for photo/video issues, when people on the ground are misinformed. Otherwise call TSA Ombudsmen.

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TSO Screening Management Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) May ’08, selected bits is.gd/ihMYj

**2.2.3. HHMD OR PAT-DOWN SCREENING OF INDIVIDUALS**

... All HHMD and pat-down searches must be conducted by TSOs of the same gender as the individual presents him or herself to be.”

*4.3.4.OPPOSITE GENDER SCREENING*

Extraordinary circumstances may occur where a TSO of the same gender as the individual being screened (the gender of an individual is determined by who he or she presents themselves to be) is not available to complete HHMD and/or pat-down screening procedures (for example, staffing shortage emergencies at any airport or limited staffing at Category II, III, and IV airports). ...  

**2.2.3. Photographing, Videotaping, and Filming Screening Locations**

- **TSO Photography FAQ**

Q: Is it ok to take pictures or videos inside the airport and at a checkpoint?

A. TSA does not prohibit photographs at screening locations; however, local laws, state statutes, or local ordinances may. We recommend contacting your local airport authority in advance to ensure they’re familiar with their local procedures. While TSA does not prohibit the public, passengers or press from photographing, videotaping, or filming at screening locations, TSA may ask a photographer to stop if they are interfering with the screening process or taking photos of X-ray monitor screens in a checkpoint. The same guidelines apply to media. Members of the press should contact TSA’s Office of Public Affairs, at 571-227-2828, prior to filming or taking photographs at a security checkpoint. While there is a difference between taking a casual photo and someone conducting surveillance, travelers should not be surprised if TSA or local law enforcement inquires about their actions. This is important to ensure the safety of the traveling public and something our officers may do as part of their security mission.”

I, Sai, am not a lawyer and definitely not your lawyer. Get one if you’re in trouble or want to sue. This isn’t legal advice and may not apply exactly to your situation. Don’t be an idiot. Standing up for your rights requires standing up to intimidation, but do so politely.

Email me at tsa@saizai.com w/ suggestions for improvement. Please distribute this as widely as you can.

**TSA employees: please email me the latest SOP documents.**

Stay anonymous, use a throwaway email account from a random computer, use my PGP key if you can. I will ensure it gets distributed.

The public should know the rules they’re expected to comply with. Checkpoints can only be ethical if done with informed consent.