



MEDIA HOTLINE: (888) 428-7490

Sponsored by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, in association with Prince, Lobel, Glovsky & Tye
RCFP: 1815 N. Fort Myer Dr., Suite 900, Arlington, Va. 22209 (703) 807-2100
PLGT: 585 Commercial Street, Boston, MA 02109 (617) 456-8000

REPORTERS COMMITTEE MEDIA HOTLINE PROVIDES FREE 24-HOUR LEGAL AID TO JOURNALISTS COVERING DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press has arranged with the law firm of PRINCE, LOBEL, GLOVSKY & TYE, LLP to provide reporters covering the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston with a 24-hour MEDIA HOTLINE offering cost-free legal advice. Attorneys from PRINCE, LOBEL, GLOVSKY & TYE will be available to provide legal representation to credentialed reporters with regard to their access to and coverage of the convention and political protests related to it.

The hotline phone number is **(888) 428-7490**. It will be in operation beginning Friday, July 23, 2004, and throughout the convention. If that number, which will be forwarded to a cellular phone in the possession of an attorney, is not available due to high cellular traffic or any other reason, then call **(617) 456-8018**. The attorneys who will be handling calls are Joe Steinfield, Rob Bertsche, David Plotkin, and Jeffrey Pyle; criminal defense lawyers Walter Prince and Will Korman will also be on call. You can also call the regular Reporters Committee hotline, if necessary: **(800) 336-4243**.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ARRESTED OR EXPERIENCE OTHER LEGAL PROBLEMS

Disturbances at political conventions in the past have sometimes resulted in mass arrests during which reporters have been taken into custody. Security precautions are particularly high this year, as this convention is the first since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The MEDIA HOTLINE is part of the Reporters Committee's effort to minimize problems reporters may face in the event of undue restrictions on access, mass demonstrations, or other unusual occurrences during the Democratic National Convention. Please follow the guidelines below in the event of a demonstration or disturbance.

This flier offers our best information at the time it was prepared; some of the information here may be subject to change before the convention.

ACCESS. Only reporters, camera crews, photographers, and other media personnel with proper credentials will be allowed into the "hard" security zone surrounding the FleetCenter, and police will heavily monitor activity in the broader "soft" security zone beyond it. Do not expect to

enter any areas in the vicinity of the FleetCenter that are closed by police for security reasons, and do not walk directly through a police line.

MBTA transit service to some areas in and outside of Boston will be curtailed, and all pocketbooks, baggage, briefcases, packs, and boxes may be subject to random or, in some cases, mandatory search throughout the MBTA system. On transit lines that pass near the FleetCenter, large bags will be prohibited. Riders who refuse inspection or decline to provide identification on request may be barred from the transit system. Commercial vehicles coming into Boston will also be subject to random checks by state police.

POLICE INFORMATION. Police presence around the convention will be provided by the Secret Service, FBI, Massachusetts State Police, Boston Police Department, and MBTA Police Department (essentially transit authority police), among others. Representatives of each of these law enforcement agencies will operate a Joint Information Center ("JIC") from the first-floor media room at Boston Police Department headquarters in an effort to provide a coherent answer to media questions that may be cross-jurisdictional. During convention week, the JIC will operate a 24-hour media information hotline at **617-343-6240**. Noon to midnight, it will be staffed by Lt. Kevin Foley, the Boston Police Department's chief information officer. After midnight and until noon, it will be staffed by Officer Nadine Taylor-Miller and Officer Michael McCarthy. Daily news briefings are also planned from this location.

This hotline is designed to handle a variety of questions and concerns from "A reporter for our network was arrested and we're trying to find him" to "How many protesters were arrested after that rally?" to "I'm trying to recover a camera bag that was seized by the MBTA."

ON-SITE DETENTION. In the event you are taken into custody during a disturbance, tell the arresting officer immediately that you are a news reporter and show your credentials. Carry your credentials with you at all times. The Boston Police Department will be making an effort not to

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interfere with working journalists, provided that the journalists have not committed separate infractions such as disorderly conduct or harassment and have cooperated with police procedures. Identifying yourself as a news reporter should facilitate your release if you are caught up in a mass arrest.

If you are charged with disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, or a similar infraction, the police may take your information and issue a summons to appear in court. Typically the summons will arrive at your home address within three to four weeks following the incident and will specify a date and time for you to appear in court. If you are issued such a summons and would like assistance with the subsequent court appearance, attorneys with PRINCE, LOBEL, GLOVSKY & TYE can help you at that time, but such assistance is not part of the free hotline service. Failure to subsequently appear in court at the appointed date and time may result in a warrant for your arrest.

If an officer detains you and you are unable to call the MEDIA HOTLINE, you can call the law enforcement agencies' Joint Information Center at 617-343-6240.

ARREST AND DETENTION. If you are taken into custody by police for any of the agencies providing police presence at or near the convention, you will be brought under the control of the Boston Police Department.

Any adult who is taken into custody will be brought to the Suffolk County House of Correction, 20 Bradston St., Boston, located near South Bay Plaza. There, you will go through a routine booking procedure which involves a series of background questions, fingerprints, and photographs. You will be required to provide identification at this time. If you fail to do so, you will be transported to the Boston Municipal Court's Roxbury Division to appear before a judge. If you still refuse to identify yourself, you will be returned to the House of Correction and detained.

The Boston Police Department has informed us that individuals arrested for misdemeanors and who have no outstanding warrants for their arrest will be bailed or released from the House of Correction and ordered to appear back in the Boston Municipal Court – Central Division on a later date. (However, if you appear to be under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or other intoxicants, the police may keep you in custody until they perceive that you no longer present a danger to yourself or another person.) As to persons brought to the House of Correction after hours, a bail commissioner will be called to the House of Correction to facilitate your release. Most individuals arrested for misde-

meanors are released on their own recognizance. However, even if the bail commissioner does not set a bail, there will be a \$40 personal recognizance fee, and sometimes court costs as well.

You should carry a minimum of \$100 to secure release, if necessary. You may call the MEDIA HOTLINE for assistance in connection with your arraignment and securing your release.

FELONY ARREST. If you are arrested for a felony (such as assaulting a police officer), or if you are arrested for a misdemeanor but have outstanding warrants, your bail could be significantly higher and your legal problems more serious. Those arrested for felonies, or with outstanding warrants, will be transported to the Boston Municipal Court – Roxbury Division, where they will appear before a judge for arraignment. If eligible, you will be bailed from there. If not (or if the arrest occurs after mid-afternoon), you may be returned to the House of Correction for detention or possible release on bail. Call the MEDIA HOTLINE for immediate assistance.

OTHER INFORMATION. The Reporters Committee has made the arrangement with PRINCE, LOBEL, GLOVSKY & TYE to cover journalists with proper credentials. The hotline should not be used for disputes over credentials or problems unrelated to your news coverage of the convention. Non-credentialed reporters or protesters who are arrested should not use this MEDIA HOTLINE, but may instead contact the National Lawyers Guild at 617-723-4330. Questions about civil rights and liberties issues will be fielded by the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts; contact executive director Carol Rose at (617) 482-3170 ext. 313.

If you are taken into custody and unable to call the MEDIA HOTLINE, try to inform a colleague, employer, or somebody else who will be able to contact the HOTLINE for you. Attorneys will be able to provide you with free legal assistance, at least for your initial court hearing.

When calling the MEDIA HOTLINE, please identify yourself as a credentialed journalist and state that you are calling the MEDIA HOTLINE. Also, be sure to specify whether you are requesting emergency assistance or merely seeking advice.

If you have any questions or comments about the MEDIA HOTLINE, contact Joe Steinfield at (617) 456-8015 or Rob Bertsche at (617) 456-8018 at PRINCE, LOBEL, GLOVSKY & TYE, or Lucy Dalglish, Executive Director of the Reporters Committee, at (703) 807-2100.

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