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Police Officers Closely Following A Peaceful Passenger Out Of An Airport

I asked Google AI: What crimes are police officers engaging in that closely follow a peaceful passenger out of an airport? This was the response:”

Steven Magee – Author of [Police Corruption Researcher](#)

Law enforcement officers are generally allowed to follow individuals in public spaces, including airports, as part of legitimate duties like investigating a crime or ensuring public safety. However, this authority is not unlimited. Following a peaceful passenger solely based on assumptions or without reasonable suspicion of a crime can be considered harassment or a form of racial or other illegal profiling, which is a violation of civil rights, according to the ACLU of DC.

Here's a breakdown of the relevant legal principles and potential misconduct:

Fourth Amendment: The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures, including unwarranted surveillance.

Reasonable Suspicion/Probable Cause: Police must have a reasonable suspicion or probable cause to detain or conduct surveillance on someone.

Civil Rights Violations: Stops, searches, or detentions based solely on religion, race, national origin, gender, ethnicity, or political beliefs are illegal. This is also known as racial profiling.

Specific crimes or misconduct that could be involved

Racial or other illegal profiling: As mentioned, targeting individuals based on their race, religion, etc., is a violation of the Constitution and can lead to civil lawsuits.

False arrest or detention: If officers detain or arrest a person without probable cause, that could be considered false arrest, says Practical Law/Westlaw.

Harassment: Continuous or aggressive following without justification might be considered harassment, violating an individual's right to move freely in public places.

Obstruction of Justice (potentially): If a passenger is attempting to file a complaint about potential profiling and officers try to prevent them or interfere with that process, it could be seen as obstruction.

In short

While it's not inherently illegal for police to follow someone in a public space, if that action is driven by discriminatory motives or lacks reasonable suspicion, it can constitute illegal profiling and a violation of an individual's civil rights.

How Far Can a Police Officer Follow You Before It's Considered Harassment?

<https://www.lawyersftp.com/how-far-can-a-police-officer-follow-you-before-its-considered-harassment/>

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