

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS. DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS.

### THE ISSUE | PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM TSA PATDOWNS

#### **All individuals have a Fourth Amendment right to bodily integrity.**

People do not shed their constitutional rights merely by entering an airport or boarding a plane. Parents have a fundamental right to the care, custody and control of their children. As such, parents and legal guardians have a right to stand guard over underaged children and protect them from any attempts by government officials, including agents of the Transportation Security Administration, to separate minors from their parents in order to subject children to unwarranted, invasive, or overtly intimate treatment at the hands of strangers during airport screenings.

#### **When accompanying their children through TSA airport security screening, parents have the following rights:**

- **To determine** whether their child will or will not opt-out of scanners that TSA agents direct the child to enter (opting out of a scanner screening will likely result in a pat-down);
- **To be advised** of the reason their child is being subjected to any enhanced security screening, such as pat-down searches;
- **To know** what TSA agents intend to do during any enhanced security screening of their child, including how any pat-down will be conducted;
- **To speak** with their child before they are subjected to a pat-down or other enhanced security measures and let the child know what to expect and offer reassurance;
- **To alert** TSA agents to any physical or emotional condition of the child that makes the child more vulnerable to harm as a result of the enhanced security screening;
- **To request** that any pat-down search of their child be conducted in a private area out of public view;
- **To be present** with their child during a pat-down search or other enhanced security screening in order to provide comfort and support for their child.

**The Rutherford Institute stands ready to defend your rights if they are violated by the government.** Should you need legal assistance in exercising your constitutional rights, please contact [legal@rutherford.org](mailto:legal@rutherford.org).