



Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 - Section 27 fact sheet

DISCLAIMER! The below does not constitute legal advice. We hope it informs fans, but to be clear, we are not solicitors!

The Football Supporters' Federation (FSF) is strongly opposed to the use of Section 27 (S27) on innocent fans. S27 allows police to require any individual to leave any place by a route they may specify for a period of up to 48 hours. The police may do so if they reasonably believe you are, or might, contribute to alcohol-related crime or disorder. A number of fans have already been subject to this legislation.

The FSF takes this issue very seriously. We are currently working with civil rights group Liberty to contest the use of the law against innocent fans in the courts. We have also launched a campaign fighting fund.

Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006:

- S27 is individually-based. There is no power to apply S27 collectively against a group of people.
- The police officer issuing the order has to have good reason to believe that it is necessary to invoke S27 to prevent the person on whom it is served engaging in alcohol-related crime or disorder.
- There has to be evidence on which to reach such a conclusion. Being in a pub on its own is not enough. Non-alcohol related disorder is not sufficient to invoke Section 27.
- S27 can require someone who meets the conditions above to leave that locality, police can specify the means and route. The law is unclear on what defines 'locality'.
- The police have no powers to make you sign anything. If you told you are being dealt with under S27 get the details of the officer concerned. Film or record the incident if you can. Get details from all fans involved and contact the FSF immediately.
- You can protest against its application so long as you do so reasonably and peacefully and you comply with the notice. If you fail to comply with a S27 notice, then you may be arrested and/or fined by the courts.

We believe this makes S27 a draconian police tactic which infringes basic civil rights. Are police compliant with the requirements set out above? Ask.

Print a copy of this and take it to all matches, you might need it. If you have been unjustly served a Section 27 email section27@fsf.org.uk