

# PICKETING DOs & DONTs

*You have the right to picket, march, and pass out materials on public property adjacent to hospital facilities.*



**Cooperate at all times when picketing** with the directives or appropriate Contract Action Team members, or NYSNA Committee or staff



**Remain peaceful, calm and orderly at all times.** In case of a confrontation, let the appropriate Contract Action Team member, or NYSNA Committee or staff handle it.



**Don't harass, block, or otherwise physically interfere with anyone crossing a picket line to enter or leave a facility.**

Do not threaten, intimidate, or coerce picket-line crossers, either by words or gestures. Entrances and exits cannot legally be blocked.



**Avoid situations that could deviate from a positive purpose.** If a person insists on debating, ask him or her to step aside and speak with appropriate Contract Action Team members, or NYSNA Committee or staff.



**Don't go onto hospital premises,** even after the picketing is over.



**Do not block hospital entrances** or impede patients from accessing the hospital.



**Use only flyers and picket/banner signs supplied by or authorized by NYSNA.** For safety and legal reasons, sticks used for picket/banner signs must conform to certain standards. No weapons of any type will be allowed.

Members must stay within the NYSNA defined area of the action and follow NYSNA guidelines. Disruptive or other unsanctioned activities will not be allowed. Anyone who refuses to cooperate or who instigates noncompliance with the above will be asked to leave.



**Anticipate that the media may show up at your site during a strike and also at actions that occur before a strike begins.** Whenever possible, send the media to your hospital's designated spokesperson. Every site should have a member(s) prepared to deal with the media.

At times, it is difficult to direct reporters to designated spokespersons. In this circumstance it is important to always be courteous. If a reporter asks you to interview, you may decline. Just politely say, "no, thank you." Make note of the reporter's name and media outlet and alert [press@nysna.org](mailto:press@nysna.org), so a member of the NYSNA Communications staff may follow up.



### **Take Breaks and Stay Warm.**

NYSNA is setting up food and beverage stations, bathroom locations, and hubs where you can warm up if cold. Stay healthy so you can stay on the line!



### **Parking Near the Strike**

Employee lots will likely not be available per usual. Visitor lots should allow you to park, but members should make advanced plans, take public transportation, and/or carpool with coworkers!