

What happens if I'm stopped by an officer of the law?

If stopped by an officer of the law follow these steps:

- Pull off to the right side of the road as far out of the lane of traffic as possible.
- Turn off your engine, radio, and any other device that might hinder your communication with the officer.
- Turn on your flashers and the vehicle's interior lights so that the officer can easily see that everything is in order when the stop occurs in the darkness.
- Roll down your window so that you and the officer can communicate.
- Remain calm and ask the passengers to do the same.
- Keep your safety belt fastened and ask the passengers to do the same.
- Do not get out of the vehicle unless the officer asks you to exit the vehicle.
- Keep your hands in plain view, preferably on the steering wheel, and ask your passengers to keep their hands in plain view as well, such as on their laps.

- Do not make any movement that might be interpreted by the officer that you are hiding or searching for something.
- Let the officer know if you are carrying a weapon and if you have a legal permit to carry it. Do not resist a pat down. This is done if the officer has a suspicion that you may be carrying anything that would jeopardize officer safety.

Practice the golden rule:

Treat the officer like you would want to be treated.

Treat the officer with respect and teach your children how to treat law enforcement officers with respect.

Officers in return will treat you with respect.

- If the charge or citation is not clear, ask the officer for an explanation in a respectful manner
- Answer the officer's questions and ask your own questions in a calm and courteous manner.

- If you disagree with the citation or the officer's actions, do not discuss your point of view at that time - wait until you have the chance to do it before a judge in court.
- Do not be surprised if another patrol car appears. This is only to assure the officer's safety.
- Always carry proper identification: a valid drivers license, registration, and proof of insurance. If the officer asks for these documents, tell the officer where they are and reach for them slowly, keeping one hand on the steering wheel. Answer the officer's questions fully and clearly.
- You will be asked for your signature if an officer gives you a citation. Your signature is not an admission of guilt. It only means you received the citation.



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