

Tips For Interacting With The Police

Being stopped by a police officer may seem intimidating but the following tips will help ensure a positive interaction.

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When Stopped In A Car

- 1** Slow down and pullover. If the police vehicle is unmarked and you cannot determine whether the driver is a uniformed police officer, drive below the speed limit to a well-lit location, and dial 911.
- 2** Turn off your engine and turn down any devices(i.e. radio) that may pose a distraction. Leave your cell phone on. Roll down your window so you may speak to the officer.
- 3** Remain in the car, seated, with both hands on the steering wheel. Do not exit the car unless instructed. Exiting the car could be perceived as threatening or aggressive behavior. If stopped at night, turn on your interior light.
- 4** Stay calm and do not argue with the officer. If you believe you were unlawfully stopped, record the officer's badge number, document everything, and file a complaint with the department's Internal Affairs Unit.
- 5** If the officer requests to see your driver's license and registration, please comply with their request. If the documents are in the center glove box, or under the seat, inform the officer where they are located before slowly retrieving them.
- 6** If the officer requests to search your car and you do not want your car searched, politely inform the officer that you do not consent to a search. Please keep in mind that if the officer has probable cause they may search your car without a court issued warrant.
- 7** If the officer issues you a ticket and requests that you sign it, remember by signing the ticket, you are only acknowledging that you have received the ticket. Your signature is not an admission of guilt. Refusal to sign a ticket could result in an arrest or additional charges.
- 8** If you are arrested, do not resist. Resisting could escalate the situation. If you believe you were unlawfully arrested, document everything and file a complaint with the department's Internal Affairs Unit.
- 9** Remember your rights when stopped by police. You have the right to remain silent. You are not required to offer an explanation for your actions, especially if you think it may hurt your case.



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