

# WHAT TO DO

## WHEN STOPPED BY POLICE

1. Stay calm.
  2. Stop for the officer. Do not run.
  3. If in a vehicle, stop your car in a safe place, turn on the interior lights, open your window, and keep your hands on the steering wheel.
  4. Upon request, show the officer your identification. If in a car, show your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. If you have a weapon on your person or in your car, tell the officer immediately.
  5. Politely ask the officer why they stopped you.
  6. Do not argue and do not talk yourself into getting a citation. If you receive a ticket, you will have the opportunity to tell your side of the story to a judge in court. Your court date and the address for the court will be on your copy of the citation.
  7. In some cases the police may search your person and/or your vehicle without a warrant. You can refuse to consent to a search, but if the officer has reasonable suspicion or probable cause they may search. If an officer conducts a search, you may ask them what their reason is for the search.
  8. If issued a citation the officer will ask you to sign a copy of the ticket. You are not admitting guilt when you sign, you are only agreeing to appear in court or pay the fine before the court date. In some cases, refusal or failure to sign the citation could result in your arrest.
  9. The officer's name and identification number is on the citation. If you feel you were treated unfairly, if the officer was rude, or if you believe there was bias involved in your stop, you can contact the Police Department and file a complaint against the officer.
  10. Remember, be polite, be calm, and always keep your hands in plain view of the officer.
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