



### **If you are stopped by the Police while in your car...**

1. As soon as you notice the police emergency lights, pull your vehicle over to the right immediately. Find a safe spot and use the shoulder of the highway or park as close as you can to the curb. Do not stop on the roadway, in an intersection or on a curve.
2. Although you might not know the reason, you should pull over right away.
3. You may have committed some minor traffic violation without realizing it.
4. There may be some problem with your vehicle of which you are not aware.

### **Remain in your vehicle while the officer approaches...**

1. Do not attempt to get out of your vehicle or approach the officer unless you are ordered to do so by the officer.
2. Exiting your vehicle does not assist the officer and unnecessary movement may be perceived as a "threat".
3. Keep your hands easily observable, preferably on the steering wheel where they can be seen by the approaching officer.

### **Turn on your interior light if stopped at night...**

1. A lit vehicle cabin will reduce the officer's concern regarding weapons or other possible threats within your reach.
2. **Reaching under your seat or into the glove box** are actions that will cause the officer concern that you may be reaching for a weapon. Wait until he asks for your driving credentials
3. Give your license, registration and proof of insurance to the officer if asked to do so.
4. Most officers will not provide a specific reason(s) for the stop until they have received your license, registration and proof of insurance. This is to avoid debating the reason for the stop prior to acquiring the necessary information.
5. If you wish to inquire as to why you were stopped or offer any explanation, do so before the officer returns to his or her vehicle.
6. Answer all questions honestly. Information pertaining to prior arrests or traffic violations is easily verified via the police dispatcher.
7. If the officer asks you to step out of your vehicle, do so without any sudden or threatening movements.

8. Give the officer approximately 6-8 feet of personal space as a safety zone to do his/her job.
9. Remain in your vehicle at all times unless asked to do otherwise.
10. Do not become argumentative, disorderly or abusive. If an officer has already written a ticket, it cannot be voided at that time. If you believe that you have been unfairly treated, DO NOT make that argument on the side of the road. In the event you are issued a summons, your best alternative is to carry your protest to court. Whether an officer issues you a summons or gives you a warning is entirely up to their individual discretion.

### **If the Police Stop You On The Street...**

Innocent individuals are often offended or angered, or both because an officer has detained them for questioning. Although the delay might be inconvenient for you, the officer believes there is a reason (Reasonable Suspicion) to stop you and ask questions. Most of these stops are not officer initiated. The most common reasons that cause an officer to stop someone are as follows:

1. You might be one of only a few people walking around in the vicinity of a crime that has recently occurred.
2. Your clothing might be similar or identical to that worn by the perpetrator of a crime.
3. Someone may have called the police complaining about your presence or that you looked "suspicious".
4. Someone may have pointed you out to an officer.