

WHY DO POLICE STOP PEOPLE?

There are many different reasons why you might be stopped by the police. Whatever the reason, the officer needs your cooperation.

- The officer might think you are in trouble and need help.
- You may have witnessed a crime.
- You may have committed a traffic violation.
- You may fit the description of a suspect.

If you are stopped by the police while driving, you may feel anxious, confused, or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can also be stressful and dangerous for the police officer. Each year, a number of law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured while making a "routine" traffic stop.

With this in mind, polite behavior and following the officer's instructions will ensure your safety and the safety of the officer.

REMEMBER:

IN ALL CASES WHEN STOPPED, A PERSON IS REQUIRED TO COOPERATE WITH POLICE INSTRUCTIONS.



NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law requires that all drivers shall yield the right of way to emergency vehicles. Drivers are to immediately pull over parallel to the right-hand edge, stop and remain in a stopped position until the emergency vehicle has passed.

WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE, REMEMBER:

1. A police officer may pull you over at any time for a traffic offense or police investigation.
2. When you see the red overhead lights and/or hear the siren, remain calm and safely pull over to the right side of the road.
3. Remain in your vehicle unless the officer advises otherwise.
4. Keep your hands on the steering wheel so the officer can see them. Hands that are hidden can indicate danger to an officer.
5. Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floorboard, rear seat or passenger side of the vehicle. Those actions can be interpreted as reaching for weapons.
6. Do not immediately reach for your license or other documents until the officer requests them. NYS Law requires drivers to show their license, registration, and insurance card upon request.
7. If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.
8. If the stop occurs during darkness, put on your interior lights so the officer can easily see that all is in order with no hidden threats.
9. If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet and cooperate with instructions. You, as the operator, are solely responsible for your vehicle and its occupants.
10. Many departments use one-officer patrol cars, especially in the suburbs. Do not be alarmed if you see more than one marked unit for a traffic stop. This is for the safety of the police officers.
11. If the officer issues you a ticket for a traffic violation, avoid becoming argumentative.
12. Finally, if you receive a ticket, take receipt of it calmly. Accepting it is not an admission of guilt. You will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.

REMEMBER:

IT'S IMPORTANT TO COOPERATE WITH OFFICERS AND REMAIN CALM DURING ANY INTERACTION WITH THE POLICE.

Each situation is unique and the police officer must suit his/her response to fit the circumstances.

GENERALLY, A POLICE OFFICER:

- Will provide his or her name and badge number upon request.
- A police officer who is not in uniform will present proper identification; you may request to examine their credentials so that you are satisfied they are a law enforcement officer.
- Will inform a person of the reason for being stopped.
- Will only use the force necessary to effect the arrest of a suspect and to maintain the custody of the prisoner.
- Will not search the body of a person of the opposite sex except to prevent injury to the officer or another person, or to prevent the disposal or destruction of evidence, and
- Will only arrest a person for an offense committed in the officer's presence, or when the officer has probable cause to believe the person has already committed the crime.

Police Headquarters
1490 Franklin Ave., Mineola
516-573-7000

Office of Internal Affairs
516-573-7120

**Nassau County Commission of
Human Rights**
516-571-3662

Precincts

1st Precinct
900 Merrick Rd., Baldwin
516-573-6100

2nd Precinct
7700 Jericho Tpke., Woodbury
516-573-6200

3rd Precinct
214 Hillside Ave., Williston Park
516-573-6300

4th Precinct
1699 Broadway, Hewlett
516-573-6400

7th Precinct
3636 Merrick Rd., Seaford
516-573-6700



**WHAT TO DO
WHEN
STOPPED BY
THE POLICE**

Edward P. Mangano
County Executive

Thomas C. Krumpert
Acting Police Commissioner

