

YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT

- You have the right to know **WHAT YOU ARE BEING STOPPED FOR**
- You have the right to know **HOW TO IDENTIFY THE OFFICER**
- You have the right to **REFUSE TO GIVE CONSENT FOR A SEARCH**
- You have the right to be **TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY**
- You have the right to ask if you are **FREE TO GO**
- You have the right to **FILE A COMPLAINT ABOUT MISTREATMENT**
- You have the right to **VIDEOTAPE YOUR ENCOUNTER**
- You have the right to **STOP TALKING AND REQUEST THE PRESENCE OF AN ATTORNEY**

YOUR OBLIGATIONS

- **SPEAK RESPECTFULLY.** It will always be to your advantage
- **DO NOT ARGUE THE MERITS OF A TICKET.** Unless you are a lawyer, the police will know more than you
- **DO NOT BAD MOUTH OR CURSE.** This will only cause additional trouble
- Stay calm. **WATCH YOUR ATTITUDE**
- **TELL PASSENGERS TO KEEP THEIR COOL**
- **DO NOT GIVE THEM A REASON TO PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST**

POLICE HAVE RIGHTS AS WELL AS OBLIGATIONS

POLICE OFFICERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO

- **ASK FOR PROPER IDENTIFICATION**
- Frisk you for **THEIR OWN SAFETY**
- **SEARCH YOUR CAR IF THEY SEE SOMETHING ILLEGAL OR SUSPICIOUS**
- **ISSUE YOU A TICKET, SUMMONS OR CITATION**
- **ARREST YOU IF YOU HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME**
- **USE DEADLY FORCE IF ATTACKED**

POLICE OFFICERS ARE OBLIGATED TO

- **TREAT YOU WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY**
- Stop you **ONLY FOR PROBABLE CAUSE**
- **RESPECT YOUR RIGHTS**
- **SEEK A WARRANT IF CONSENT IS NOT GIVEN**
- **ENFORCE THE LAW FAIRLY AND EQUALLY**
- **TELL YOU WHY YOU ARE BEING STOPPED**

GOOD COPS/BAD COPS—There ARE Differences

GOOD COPS

- Will respect your rights
- Will likely give you a break if you show you deserve one
- Will show you respect
- Will treat you with dignity

BAD COPS

- **WANT YOU TO DO OR SAY SOMETHING WRONG**
- **WILL USE YOUR DEFIANCE OR DISRESPECT AGAINST YOU**
- **WILL TRY TO TRICK YOU INTO DOING SOMETHING TO ARREST YOU FOR**



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IF YOU HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE

- If the police have stopped you, they think they have a reason to do so (probable cause)
- It is best to remain calm and properly identify yourself when asked to do so
- In many situations, you or the persons with you, can talk your way **INTO** jail just as well as you can talk your way out of jail. By yelling, cursing or threatening the officer, the **BEST** you can do is get yourself arrested
- **DO NOT RUN**. This will make them think they were right all along and give them a reason to arrest you when they may not have one
- **DO NOT FIGHT OR RESIST** the police. ***This can only end tragically for you***

IF YOU ARE STOPPED WHILE DRIVING

- **PULL OVER IMMEDIATELY**
- If at night, **TURN ON YOUR INTERIOR LIGHTS**
- **KEEP YOUR HANDS IN PLAIN SIGHT**
- **DO NOT MAKE ANY SUDDEN OR VIOLENT MOVEMENTS**
- **SPEAK CALMLY, POLITELY AND COURTEOUSLY**
- **PRESENT YOUR IDENTIFICATION WHEN ASKED**
- **TELL OTHERS TO STAY CALM**

IF YOU ARE STOPPED ON THE STREET

- The police may ask for your name if you have been properly detained and you can be arrested in some states for refusing to give it
- You can claim the right to remain silent, which may be a defense in case you are arrested anyway. It's not a crime to refuse to answer questions, but refusing to answer might make the police suspicious about you
- Police may "pat-down" your outer-clothing – if, they suspect a concealed weapon. ***Don't physically resist***, but make it clear that you don't consent to any further search
- Ask if you are under arrest. If you are, you have a right to know why
- Don't bad-mouth the police officer or offer resistance, even if you believe what is happening is unreasonable. That could lead to your arrest

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE THE POLICE CAN SEE THEM**
- **PLEASE...DO NOT RUN!**
- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT ANY POLICE OFFICER.**
- **DO NOT RESIST** - even if you believe you are innocent
- **DO NOT COMPLAIN TOO STRONGLY** on the scene or tell the police they're wrong or that you're going to file a complaint

IF THE POLICE COME TO YOUR HOUSE

- If the police knock at your door, you do not have to let them in unless there is a signed warrant. Always ask to see the warrant. If it is appears proper on its face, you must step aside and let them into your home or business
- If it is an arrest warrant, look at the name on the warrant to make certain they have the right person. If it is a search warrant, make sure the address is correct and note what is specifically listed on the warrant to be searched for in your home
- The police are not required to give you a receipt for property they intend to book as evidence such as stolen goods, guns, etc.
- The police may also search without a warrant whenever arresting an individual. They may search the individual under arrest, the area near the arrest, and the room where the arrest was made if inside the home
- If you are arrested, the police can search you and the area close by. If you are in a building, "close by" usually means just the room you are in



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