



Traffic Stop Safety Tips

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Here's a refresher on what to do if you are ever stopped by a law enforcement officer.

During traffic stops, an officer can come across uninsured drivers, drivers with suspended/revoked driver's licenses, drivers impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, people in possession of illegal firearms and drugs, and drivers and passengers with arrest warrants. These are just a few of the reasons why officers are trained to place a great deal of emphasis on their safety until the risk of confrontation or injury is diminished.

1. Always carry proper identification: a valid driver's license, proof of vehicle registration and current proof of insurance.
2. When being signaled by a police officer to stop, look for the nearest place to position your vehicle as far out of the lane of traffic as possible. Generally, you should always pull to the right side of the roadway or to where the shoulder is wider, unless otherwise directed.
3. Roll down your window all the way, so the officer can communicate with you.
4. Keep your hands in view, preferably on the steering wheel. Ask your passengers to place their hands in plain view such as on their laps.
5. Remain calm and refrain from using your cell phone and/or turn down your vehicle's radio so that the officer can speak with you. If there are passengers, ask them to remain quiet and cooperative with all reasonable requests.
6. Answer all questions honestly. Information pertaining to prior arrests or traffic violations is easily verified via the police dispatcher.
7. Do not argue with the officer at the roadside. If you disagree with the citation or the officer's actions, discuss it later with the law enforcement agency, an attorney, or the judge.