WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE

Everyone will have contact with the police at some point. Following these tips can help ensure your encounter is a safe one.

WHILE IN YOUR CAR:

Pull your vehicle over to the right and stop immediately.

Remain in your vehicle while the officer approaches. Don’t attempt to exit your vehicle or approach the officer.

Keep your hands visible, on the steering wheel. Don’t reach under your seat or into your glove box unless instructed to do so by the officer.

Give your license and proof of insurance to the officer if asked to do so.

If you wish to inquire about why you were stopped or offer an explanation, do so before the officer returns to his or her vehicle.

Don’t become argumentative, disorderly, or abusive. If you believe you have been treated unfairly, you may voice your concerns in traffic court.

Answer all questions honestly and politely. Your conduct during the stop may influence the officer’s decision to issue a ticket or simply give a warning.

Remember, law enforcement is a difficult and dangerous profession. Be calm. Be polite. Be safe!

WHILE ON CAMPUS OR ON THE STREET:

Innocent individuals are often offended or angered when detained by an officer for questioning. Although the delay might be inconvenient, the officer could have a good reason to stop you. Officers commonly stop people for the following reasons:

You might be one of only a few people walking around in the vicinity of a crime that has recently occurred.

Your clothing might be similar to that worn by the perpetrator of a crime.

Someone might have called the police complaining about your presence or pointed you out to the officer.

You could be acting in a manner that the officer considers suspicious.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE STATISTICAL KIND*

19%

of persons involved in street stops were searched or frisked by police.

62.9 MILLION

U.S. residents age 16 or older, had one or more contacts with police.

1 IN EVERY 10

American drivers was pulled over for a traffic violation in 2011.

31%

That’s how much more likely a black driver is to be pulled over than a white driver.

* Bureau of Justice Statistics: Police Behaviors during Traffic and Street Stops, 2011

#ALLLIVESMATTER