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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 Behavior during Traffic and Street Stops, 2011

#ALLLIVESMATTER