

ST. CLAIR POLICE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

What To Do During a Traffic Stop

Each year, law enforcement officials are killed or seriously injured while conducting routine traffic stops. While there are several reasons that you could be stopped by law enforcement, please keep in mind, there are things that all law abiding citizens can do to help lessen the stress of a traffic stop.

When you see the emergency lights or hear the sirens, remain calm, slow down and pull over in a safe location off the roadway.

Do not exit your vehicle unless asked to do so.

Keep your hands on the steering wheel so the officer can see them.

Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floorboard, rear seat or passenger side of the vehicle.

Comply with the officers' request to see your driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration.

If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before reaching for them.

If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet and cooperate with the instructions. You, as the operator, are solely responsible for your vehicle and its occupants.

Avoid becoming argumentative. If you contest the violation, you will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.

Answer all questions truthfully.

The officer may issue you a ticket. If you feel the reason is unclear or vague, politely ask the officer for details.

If asked to sign a citation, do so. It is not an admission of guilt, it is just an acceptance of the conditions of the citation. Refusal could result in an arrest.

You have the right to politely deny a request by an officer to search your car; however, if probable cause is present, the officer has the right to search your vehicle without your consent.

The Officer will ...

Provide his or her name on request.

Provide the reason for being stopped.

Only arrest a person for a crime committed in their presence or when they have probable cause to believe the person has already committed a crime.

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