

The Dayton Police Department
335 W. Third Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402

EMERGENCY

911

NON-EMERGENCY

333-COPS (2677)

INFORMATION

333-1000

Endorsements:

St. Paul Global Network
Working for the Common Good, Inc.
One Love Fellowship of Ministries and
Churches
Transformation Evangelism, Inc.
East End Community Services
Community Police Roundtable
Southeast Priority Board
Human Relations Council
Street Souljahz
Southeast Priority Board

WHAT TO DO.....
WHEN YOU ARE IN
A CAR STOPPED
BY THE POLICE



Guidelines for
interacting with law
enforcement officials



What is your name?

Where do you live?

Do you have any identification?

Law enforcement officers ask these simple questions many times each day. They can be easily answered by almost everyone. There are many reasons why an officer might ask those questions of YOU. Most of the time there is a very good reason for asking such questions although it may seem to you that there isn't.

The officer may be investigating a neighborhood complaint. They may have been informed by the dispatch center that there a crime occurred nearby. For one reason or another you may be the person they suspect. You may have knowledge that will help them in their investigation, or they may think that you are having trouble.

This brochure will attempt to explain what rights you have, what things you should remember and what you can expect when a police officer starts asking you a lot of questions.

IF YOU ARE STOPPED IN YOUR CAR

- ❑ Slow down and pull over safely when you can. If the police vehicle is unmarked and you cannot identify the driver as a uniformed police officer, drive below the speed limit to a well lit, populated area and then pull over.
- ❑ Turn off your engine and any other device (radio, CD player, tape players, cell phone) and roll down your window so you can speak with the officer.
- ❑ Stay in the driver's seat with both hands on the steering wheel. Do not exit the car unless asked to do so. Getting out of your car can be perceived as aggressive behavior and a threat to the officer's safety. Turn on your interior light if stopped at night.

- ❑ Comply with the officer's request to see your driver's license and/or registration. If they are in the glove box or under the seat, tell the officer where they are located and wait until told to retrieve them.
- ❑ If you are the driver and/or owner of the car and do not want your car searched, clearly inform the officer of your non-consent in a polite manner. However, if the officer has "probable cause", your car can be searched without a court-issued warrant.
- ❑ If you are issued a ticket, sign it. Signing a ticket is not an admission of guilt, only an acknowledgement of receiving the ticket. Refusing to sign the ticket could result in your arrest or additional charges.



- ❑ If you are suspected of drunk driving, cooperate with the officer(s). If you refuse to submit to breath, blood or performance tests, your refusal is cause for an automatic license suspension in Ohio.
- ❑ Most officers will not tell you why you were stopped until they have your license and/or registration in hand. Therefore, they will avoid having to debate the reason of stop before they receive these items from you.
- ❑ If you wish to offer an explanation of your actions when stopped, do so before the officer returns to their vehicle. The officer can't void the ticket once it has been written. If you believe you have been treated unfairly, present your case in traffic court and not to the officer along the roadside.