

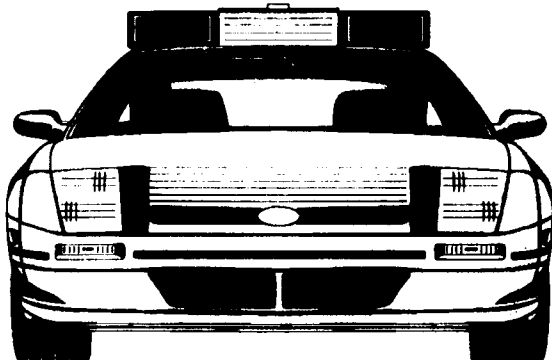
Each situation is unique and the police officer must alter his/her response to fit the circumstance.

### GENERALLY, A Police Officer:

- Will provide his or her name upon request.
- A police officer who is not in uniform will present proper identification; you may request to examine their credentials so that you are satisfied they are a law enforcement officer.
- Will inform a person of the reason for being stopped.
- Will only use the force necessary to effect the arrest of a suspect and to maintain the custody of the prisoner.
- Will not search the body of a person of the opposite sex except to prevent injury to the officer or another person, or to prevent the disposal or destruction of evidence, and
- Will only arrest a person for a crime committed in the officer's presence, or when the officer has probable cause to believe the person has already committed the crime.

### QUESTIONS/ COMPLIMENTS/ COMPLAINTS/

If you have a question about procedures or a complaint about your treatment, contact the Department and ask to speak with a supervisor. You may also send a letter of compliment if you feel the officer was particularly helpful in your situation.



## CAMPUS LOCATIONS

### DEPARTMENTS OF UNIVERSITY POLICE

SUNY System Administration  
State University Plaza  
Albany, New York 12246  
AC 518 443-5116  
AC 518 443-5500

State University at Albany  
1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12222  
AC 518 442-3130

State University at Binghamton  
Binghamton, New York 13901  
AC 607 777-2275

State University at Buffalo  
Bissell Hall  
Amherst, New York 14260  
AC 716 645-2230

State University at Stony Brook  
Dutchess Hall - South Campus  
Stony Brook, New York 11794  
AC 516 632-6350

SUNY Health Science  
Center at Brooklyn  
450 Clarkson Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11203  
AC 718 270-3161

State University College  
Brockport, New York 14420  
AC 716 395-2226

State University College  
Buffalo, New York 14222  
AC 716 878-6332

State University College  
P.O. Box 2000  
Cortland, New York 13405  
AC 607 753-2111

State University College  
Fredonia, New York 14063  
AC 716 673-3465

State University College  
Geneseo, New York 14454  
AC 716 245-5651

State University College  
New Paltz, New York 12561  
AC 914 257-2222

State University College  
Old Westbury,  
New York 11568-0210  
AC 516 876-3146

State University College  
Oneonta, New York 13820  
AC 607 436-3550

State University College  
Oswego, New York 13126  
AC 315 341-2268

State University College  
Plattsburgh, New York 12901  
AC 518 564-2023

State University College  
Potsdam, New York 13676  
AC 315 267-2225

State University College  
Purchase, New York 10577  
AC 914 251-6905

Institute of Technology at  
Utica/Rome  
Marcy Campus, P.O. Box 3050  
Utica, New York 13504-3050  
AC 315 792-7106

State University College of  
Environmental Science  
and Forestry  
Syracuse, New York 13210  
AC 315 470-6667

State University Maritime  
College  
Fort Schuyler  
Bronx, New York 10465  
AC 212 409-7307

State University College of  
Optometry  
100 East 24th Street  
New York, New York 10010  
AC 212 780-4901

State University College of  
Technology at Alfred  
Alfred, New York 14802  
AC 607 587-4316

State University College of  
Technology at Canton  
Canton, New York 13617  
AC 315 386-7117

State University College of  
Agriculture and  
Technology at Cobleskill  
Cobleskill, New York 12043  
AC 518 234-5317

State University College of  
Technology at Delhi  
Delhi, New York 13753  
AC 607 746-4201

State University College of  
Technology at Farmingdale  
Farmingdale, New York 11735  
AC 516 420-2702

State University College of  
Agriculture and  
Technology at Morrisville  
Morrisville, New York 13408  
AC 315 684-6410

# WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE



## State University of New York Police Chiefs Association

# WHY DO POLICE STOP PEOPLE?

There are many different reasons why you might be stopped by the police. Whatever the reason, the officer needs your cooperation.

- You may have committed a traffic violation.
- You may fit the description of a suspect.
- The officer might think you are in trouble and need help.
- You may have witnessed a crime.



If you are stopped by the police while driving, you may feel confused, anxious, or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can also be stressful and dangerous for the police officer. Each year, a number of law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured while making the "routine traffic stop." Police officers are especially vulnerable during the hours of darkness.

*With this in mind, there are things that you, as a law abiding citizen, can do to help lessen the unpleasantness of the experience.*

## **REMEMBER:**

**In all cases, a citizen is required to cooperate with police.**

## When stopped by police, remember:



1. A police officer may pull you over at any time for a traffic offense or police investigation.
2. When you see the red overhead lights and/or hear the siren, remain calm and safely pull over parallel to the right side of the road.
3. Remain in your vehicle unless the officer advises otherwise.
4. Keep your hands on the steering wheel so the officer can see them.
5. Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floorboard, rear seat or passenger side of the vehicle.
6. Do not immediately reach for your license or other documents until the officer requests them. NYS Law requires drivers to show their license, registration and insurance card upon request.
7. If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.
8. If the stop occurs during darkness, put on your dome or interior lights so the officer can easily see that all is in order.
9. If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet and cooperate with instructions. You, as the operator, are solely responsible for your vehicle and its occupants.
10. The officer may issue you a ticket. If you feel the reason is vague or unclear, ask the officer for details.
11. Avoid becoming argumentative. Arguing will not change the officer's mind. If you contest the violation, you will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.
12. Be honest with the officer. If you really didn't see the stop sign, or were unaware of the speed limit, let the officer know. Being honest about any situation never hurts.
13. Many departments use one-man patrol cars, especially in the suburbs. It would be normal to see two or three marked units on a routine traffic stop.
14. Finally, if you receive a ticket, accept it calmly. Accepting it is not an admission of guilt.

*NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law requires that all drivers shall yield the right of way to emergency vehicles. Drivers are to immediately pull over parallel to the right-hand edge, stop and remain in a stopped position until the emergency vehicle has passed.*