

WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED

- PULL OVER IMMEDIATELY
- If at night, TURN ON YOUR INTERIOR LIGHTS
- **KEEP YOUR HANDS IN PLAIN SIGHT**
- **DO NOT MAKE ANY SUDDEN OR VIOLENT MOVEMENTS**
- SPEAK CALMLY, POLITELY AND COURTEOUSLY
- PRESENT YOUR IDENTIFICATION WHEN ASKED

ALWAYS REMEMBER

- If the police have stopped you, they think they have a reason to do so (probable cause)
- It is best to remain calm and properly identify yourself when asked to do so
- In many situations, you or the persons with you, can talk your way INTO jail just as well as you can talk your way out of jail. By yelling, cursing or threatening the officer, the BEST you can do is get yourself arrested
- **DO NOT RUN.** This will make them think they were right all along and give them a reason to arrest you when they may not have one.
- **DO NOT FIGHT** with police. This can only end tragically for you

We want your interactions with the police to be both safe and favorable. But above all, we want you to be able to walk away from a battle you can afford to lose.

Good Cops, Bad Cops— There ARE Differences

GOOD COPS

- Will respect your rights
- Will likely give you a break if you show you deserve one
- Will show you respect
- Both Black and White

BAD COPS

- WANT YOU TO DO OR SAY SOMETHING WRONG
- WILL USE YOUR DEFIANCE OR DISRESPECT AGAINST YOU
- WILL TRY TO TRICK YOU INTO DOING SOMETHING TO ARREST YOU FOR
- BOTH BLACK AND WHITE

Most police officers serve with honor and want to help the community

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

P.O. Box 1182
Newark, NJ 07102
On the Web: <http://nableo.org>

Charles P. Wilson
National Chairman
401-465-9152
cpwilson22@verizon.net

In the community...FOR THE
COMMUNITY

WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE



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YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT

- You have the right to know **WHAT YOU ARE BEING STOPPED FOR**
- You have the right to know **HOW TO IDENTIFY THE OFFICER**
- You have the right to **REFUSE TO GIVE CONSENT FOR A SEARCH**
- You have the right to be **TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY**
- You have the right to ask if you are **FREE TO GO**
- You have the right to **FILE A COMPLAINT ABOUT MISTREATMENT**
- You have the right to **VIDEOTAPE YOUR ENCOUNTER**
- You have the right to **STOP TALKING AND REQUEST THE PRESENCE OF AN ATTORNEY**

YOUR OBLIGATIONS

- **DO NOT RUN.**
- **DO NOT FIGHT THE POLICE.** This will **ONLY END TRAGICALLY FOR YOU**
- **DO NOT ARGUE THE MERITS OF A TICKET.** Unless you are a lawyer, the police will know more than you.
- **DO NOT BAD MOUTH OR CURSE.** This will only cause additional trouble
- Stay calm. **WATCH YOUR ATTITUDE.**
- **DO NOT GIVE THEM A REASON TO PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST**

POLICE HAVE RIGHTS AS WELL AS OBLIGATIONS

POLICE OFFICERS HAVE THE RIGHT

- They have the right to **ASK FOR PROPER IDENTIFICATION**
- They have the right to frisk you for **THEIR OWN SAFETY**
- They have the right to **SEARCH YOUR CAR IF THEY SEE SOMETHING ILLEGAL OR SUSPICIOUS**
- They have the right to **ISSUE YOU A TICKET, SUMMONS OR CITATION**
- They have the right to **ARREST YOU IF YOU HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME**
- They have the right to **USE DEADLY FORCE IF ATTACKED**

POLICE OFFICERS ARE OBLIGATED

- They are obligated to **TREAT YOU WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY**
- They are obligated to stop you **ONLY FOR PROBABLE CAUSE**
- They are obligated to **RESPECT YOUR RIGHTS**
- They may be obligated to **SEEK A WARRANT IF CONSENT IS NOT GIVEN**
- They are obligated to **ENFORCE THE LAW FAIRLY AND EQUALLY**

We ***DO NOT*** provide this information as a means of offering legal advice or assistance. Rather, it is offered as a means of educational information that we believe should be made available to all. If you believe that your rights have been violated through any form of law enforcement misconduct or police abuse, we urge you to seek the advice and counsel of a licensed attorney.

WE WANT YOU TO BE SMART

- WE WANT YOU TO BE SAFE
- WE WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND AND KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
- WE WANT YOU TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICE PROCESS
- WE WANT YOU TO FORM BETTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

BUT MOST OF ALL

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW TO WALK AWAY FROM A BATTLE YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOSE



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