



CAPS TIPS

*Brought to You by the Chicago Police Department
Your Partners for Safe Neighborhoods*

What You Should Do If Stopped by a Police Officer

Law enforcement is a difficult and dangerous profession. Sometimes the safety procedures that officers use may appear unnecessary, but they are designed to ensure both your safety and the officer's safety. You should know what your rights and responsibilities are if you are stopped for a traffic or other violation.

Your Responsibilities:

- **Slow down. Pull over as soon as you can safely do so.** If the police vehicle is unmarked and you doubt that the driver is an officer, drive below the speed limit to a well-lit, populated place and pull over; go to the nearest police station; attract the attention of a uniformed officer or call 911.
- **Stay in the driver's seat with both hands clearly in sight on the steering wheel. All occupants should remain in the vehicle.** No-one should exit the vehicle unless asked to do so by the officer.
- **Comply with the officer's request to see your driver's license and proof of insurance.** If they are in the glove compartment or under the seat, let the officer know and then follow his or her directions before retrieving them.
- **Cooperate during the incident even if you believe you haven't committed an offense.**

Your Rights:

- **You will be treated with dignity and respect.** Officers are instructed to tell you the reason why you have been stopped.
- **Chicago Police Department policy expressly prohibits "racial profiling" and "other bias-based policing".**
- **Chicago Police Department Rules and Regulations forbid physical or verbal maltreatment of any person.**
- **Under no circumstances may Chicago Police officers ask you to pay a fine for a traffic violation at the time it occurs or accept a cash bond.** Asking for such a payment, as well as making one, is illegal.
- **You have a right to have any inappropriate situation addressed.** If you believe that an officer has acted inappropriately during a traffic stop or other encounter, you should report that conduct as soon as possible to the Office of Professional Standards' 24 Hour Hotline at (312) 745-3594. Try to have as much information as possible about the officer, including his or her name, star number, and any numbers on the top or sides of his or her squad car and license plate number, as well as the exact date, time and location of the occurrence. Officers are required to provide their name and star number upon request.



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