

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

**GENERALLY, A POLICE OFFICER:**

- Will provide his or her name and badge number 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 an offense committed in the officer's presence, or when the officer has probable cause to believe the person has already committed the crime.

**QUESTIONS/COMPLAINTS/COMPLIMENTS**

If you have a question about procedures or a complaint about your treatment, contact your precinct at the Police Department and ask to speak with a supervisor, call our Office of Internal Affairs, or send an email to [Complaint@pdcn.org](mailto:Complaint@pdcn.org).

You may also send a letter or an email of compliment if you feel the officer was particularly helpful in your situation to [compliment@pdcn.org](mailto:compliment@pdcn.org).

**Police Headquarters**  
1490 Franklin Ave., Mineola  
**516-573-8800**

Office of Internal Affairs  
**516-573-7120**

Nassau County District Attorney's  
Criminal Complaint Unit  
**516-571-3505**

Nassau County Commission of Human Rights  
**516-571-3662**

NYS Attorney General  
Nassau County Regional Office  
**516-248-3300**

**PRECINCTS**

**1st Precinct • 516-573-6100**  
900 Merrick Rd., Baldwin

**2nd Precinct • 516-573-6200**  
7700 Jericho Tpke., Woodbury

**3rd Precinct • 516-573-6300**  
214 Hillside Ave., Williston Park

**4th Precinct • 516-573-6400**  
1699 Broadway, Hewlett

**5th Precinct • 516-573-6500**  
1655 Dutch Broadway, Elmont

**6th Precinct • 516-573-6600**  
100 Community Dr., Manhasset

**7th Precinct • 516-573-6700**  
3636 Merrick Rd., Seaford

**8th Precinct • 516-573-6800**  
299 Hicksville Rd., Bethpage



**BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN**  
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



**PATRICK J. RYDER**  
POLICE COMMISSIONER

# WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE



**NASSAU COUNTY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

1490 Franklin Ave., Mineola • [www.pdcn.org](http://www.pdcn.org)  
**516-573-8800**

## 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.

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

If you are stopped by the police while driving, you may feel anxious, confused, 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 a “routine” traffic stop.

**COOPERATION, COMPLIANCE, and REMAINING CALM** will ensure your safety and the safety of officers.

### REMEMBER:

Upon officer’s request, motorists are required to produce their driver’s license, proof of vehicle registration and insurance identification card.

## WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE, REMEMBER:

*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.*



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 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. Hands that are hidden can indicate danger to an officer.
5. Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floorboard, rear seat or passenger side of the vehicle. Those actions can be interpreted as reaching for weapons.
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 interior lights so the officer can easily see that all is in order with no hidden threats.
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. Many departments use one-officer patrol cars, especially in the suburbs. Do not be alarmed if you see more than one marked unit for a traffic stop. This is for the safety of the police officers.
11. If the officer issues you a ticket for a traffic violation, avoid becoming argumentative.
12. Finally, if you receive a ticket, take receipt of it calmly. Accepting it is not an admission of guilt. You will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.

Visit: [www.pdcn.org](http://www.pdcn.org)

### REMEMBER:

It’s important to cooperate with officers and remain calm during any interaction with the police.