

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE



I am so proud of the professional men and women who make up our police force and have ensured that Nassau County enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the nation. As one of the most diverse counties in the United States, this diversity serves as strength in our community.

We are joined together by a sense of common purpose, and differences and diversity are cultivated as a source of inspiration to all of us.

Through outreach efforts, our police force is building partnerships with communities across the County to ensure Nassau remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

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## POLICE COMMISSIONER



As Police Commissioner for Nassau County, I want to ensure all of our residents, regardless of your immigration status, that the Department's mission is to serve all the people of Nassau County and to provide safety and an improved quality of life through excellence in policing.

We must maintain and enhance the confidence and trust of the people we serve and continually strengthen and expand the partnerships between the police and the communities we serve. We believe all people deserve impartial and effective service from the Department. Together, we must identify problems and develop solutions in order to make our communities better.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Regarding foreign nationals and undocumented persons within Nassau County:

*If you are an undocumented person and you are the victim of a crime such as assault, robbery, burglary or any other type of crime should you call the police?*

**YES, of course!** The Nassau County Police Department is here to serve all the people in Nassau County regardless of your immigration status.

*If you are in need of medical attention for any type of health emergency should I call 911?*

**YES, of course!** The health and safety of all people in Nassau County are our primary concern; any time you need a police, fire or medical response you should dial 911.

*Will a Nassau County police officer detain me simply because I am an undocumented person?*

**NO.** The Nassau County Police Department does not enforce federal immigration law. However if you are arrested for a *crime* (such as DWI, petit larceny or assault) and you are a foreign national, the Police Department will transmit this information to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This notification is to determine if an ICE warrant or detainer exists.

It is the policy of the NCPD, NOT to inquire about the immigration status of:

- Crime victims
- Witnesses
- Anyone who calls or approaches the police seeking assistance

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

### Coordinating Agency for Spanish Americans (CASA)

40 Main Street - 3rd Floor  
Hempstead, NY 11550  
516.572.0750

### Office of Minority Affairs

40 Main Street - 3rd Floor  
Hempstead, NY 11550  
516.572.1933

### US Citizenship and Immigration Services

1.800.375.5283

### Nassau County Police Department Community Affairs

516.573.7360



This Public Advisory is a publication of the Nassau County Police Department



**RESPECT  
AND  
RESPONSIBILITY**

**NASSAU COUNTY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT'S  
CONTACT WITH  
FOREIGN NATIONALS  
AND UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS  
WITHIN NASSAU COUNTY**



## OUR POLICY

Respect for all persons regardless of their status is a prime objective; the Nassau County Police Department sees that as our responsibility.

In furtherance of this Department's mission, it is the duty of the Police Department, at all times of the day and night, to protect life and property, prevent crime, detect and arrest offenders, preserve the public peace, and enforce all laws and ordinances over which the Police Department has jurisdiction.

The Police Department attempts to treat all persons with dignity and respect as individuals, and to exercise additional patience and understanding where language or cultural differences might be encountered.

Equal protection under the law is an important part of our goal to have the public as partners in keeping all our communities safe. Trust of the police goes a long way toward having the community view us in this partnership role.

In America, everyone is afforded due process under the law regardless of his or her current status.

The policy of the Police Department is to ensure that foreign governments can extend appropriate consular services to their nationals in the United States and to assist the United States government with its legal obligations to such governments.

*(Foreign national:* For the purposes of consular notification: Any person who is not a United States citizen. This includes lawful permanent resident aliens and undocumented persons.)

The United States is obligated under international treaties and customary international law to notify foreign consular authorities when foreign nationals are arrested or otherwise detained in the United States. It is mandatory that police departments notify certain foreign consulates when that country's national has been arrested. Not all countries have this mandatory requirement.

While respect and responsibility when dealing with the community are prime objectives in the Nassau County Police Department, it is an individual's responsibility to respect and follow the laws that police officers are sworn to uphold and enforce.

## THE LAW and RESIDENCY STATUS

Laws created by the federal government in Washington, D.C. affect us in Nassau County. Federal laws are not enforced by the Nassau County Police Department but we may be called upon to assist a federal agency that is enforcing federal laws in Nassau County.

New York State criminal, vehicle and traffic and certain other local laws are enforced by the Nassau County Police Department and the other village and

city police departments within Nassau County.

When any person is stopped or detained in connection with any possible violation of these laws, it is the responsibility of the public to respect the officers' authority and correctly identify themselves. Any person who intentionally lies or misrepresents themselves during a police investigation may have additional charges filed against them.

*The police department attempts to treat all persons with dignity and respect as individuals...*

Regardless of a person's legal status, all persons in Nassau County within New York State are required to abide by the local, state and federal laws currently in effect. The Nassau County Police Department will not inquire into your present residency status unless you are arrested for a crime. At the time of such arrest, if it is found that you are foreign national, your residency status may come to the attention of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents tasked with upholding those laws in Nassau County.

At that time, the arrested person may be subject to the rules regarding their status in the United States. The Nassau County Police Department

does not enforce immigration laws. However, Nassau County police officers are directed to initiate an Immigration and Customs Enforcement check upon the arrest of a person found to be foreign national. Accordingly, any defendant who has a hold or request to detain will not be eligible for station house bail and will be held for arraignment.

## RESPECT & RESPONSIBILITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Respect for all persons needs to also be practiced in our communities, regardless of a person's country of origin, religion, gender or disability.

While the public demands respect and understanding from the police, they need to extend that same respect to their neighbors, friends and family and the laws of our jurisdiction.

