

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

**STRENGTH
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UNITY**



20 Tips for Interacting with Police Officers During a Traffic Stop

1. Immediately pull over to the right. If possible, pull over in a well-lit area that is immediately available and free from other traffic.
2. Put your vehicle in park, roll down your window and turn off the ignition.
3. If it is nighttime, turn on the interior light.
4. Do not attempt to run/flee the scene.
5. Remain seated and do not attempt to get out of the car.
6. Do not make any sudden movements.
7. Keep your hands where the police can see them. If you must reach for your ID or insurance, inform the officer of what you need to do before moving your hands.
8. Comply with officer's requests for identification and proof of insurance.
9. If you are lawfully carrying a weapon, disclose it to the officer.
10. If an officer gives you a ticket, sign it. It is not an admission of guilt.
11. Do not argue with the officer: Anything you say can and will be held against you.
12. Do not ignore the officer.
13. Answer any questions asked by the officer to the best of your ability.
14. If the officer asks you to get out of the vehicle, immediately comply with the officer's request.
15. Do not touch the officer or reach for the officer's weapon.
16. Do not resist arrest.
17. Confirm with the officer that you are free to go before starting your car and pulling off.
18. If you are arrested, clearly and immediately ask for a lawyer. Repeat your request for lawyer as many times as necessary.
19. Do not discuss the incident with the officer or anyone else until you have spoken with a lawyer.
20. If you feel the officer is exceeding his authority or otherwise mistreating you, remember the officer's badge number, write down the details of the incident ASAP, and make a complaint via local law enforcement's non-emergency hotline.



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Prepared and Created by the Texas Young Lawyers Association