

Suggested procedures for motorists when stopped by law enforcement officers:

- On a standard dual-lane highway, ALWAYS pull to the right and off the travel portion of the highway;
- On a highway, with two or more lanes of traffic in the same direction, a driver should pull his vehicle onto the most feasible shoulder of the highway in a safe manner;
- Upon bringing the vehicle to a stop the driver should remain seated in the vehicle and place the vehicle in the “parked” position, preferably with the vehicle in the “off” position. With power locks and windows more prevalent, the engine may have to be left running. Activate the vehicle’s hazard lights or emergency flashers;
- If at night, activate the vehicle’s interior lights;
- Turn off your car radio. This will assist in communicating with the officer;
- Place both hands on the steering wheel while the officer is approaching the vehicle;
- The passengers should place their hands in their lap or on their knees, in order to allow the officer a clear view of the vehicle; and
- Once the officer approaches the vehicle, lower your window so you can communicate with the officer.
- Do not talk on your cell phone;
- Do not move around in the vehicle, reach under the seats or enter the glove box or center console while the officer is approaching the vehicle. Basically, refrain from unnecessary movement; and
- Do not exit the vehicle or have other parties exit the vehicle unless instructed by the officer. Officers understand and take into consideration many factors when stopping drivers. In *some* cases the violator may continue to drive a short distance until they reach the first “safe haven” or well-lit area as determined by the law enforcement officer. This distance is based upon the violation committed or the law enforcement officer’s observation of the motorist’s driving ability. When proceeding to the first “safe haven” or well-lit area, the vehicle’s hazard lights or emergency flashers should be activated.