

# What to do if you are Stopped By a Culver City Police Officer

Being stopped by a police officer can be uncomfortable. Police officers share your feelings. More than half of the California police officers killed in the line of duty were conducting pedestrian or traffic stops. Our biggest concern is safety, yours and ours. The information herein will help everyone get home safely.

## What You Can Expect

- Culver City Police Officers are trained to be courteous and professional when they contact you.
- Officers who are not in uniform will also present proper identification upon request.
- Within a reasonable amount of time, the officer may explain why you were stopped.
- If you are disabled or ill, let the officer know and they will assist you.

## Talk To Us

- The Watch Commander is available to answer your questions regarding procedures, citations, or traffic stops. The Watch Commander can be contacted at (310) 253-6202.
- The Watch commander may discuss an officer's conduct and explain the reasons why you were stopped, but cannot adjudicate any citations. Only a judge has that authority.

## Why Police Officers Conduct Stops

- Public safety is the primary reason for any stop, for example:
  - Traffic violations (running a red light, speeding, talking on your cell phone, etc.)
  - You match the description of someone wanted for a crime (robbery, assault, theft, narcotics, etc.)
  - Your vehicle matches the description of a car used in a crime (drive-by shooting, robbery, burglary, etc.)
  - Vehicle equipment violations (broken taillight, cracked windshield, inoperable headlight)
  - You appear to be in distress or in need of assistance.

## What You Need To Know

- Red lights and/or siren mean pull over to the right where it is safe and where you will not block traffic.
- If it is dark, the police officer will use bright spotlights or a flashlight to illuminate you and/or your car.

- California law requires all occupants of a vehicle to obey an officer's directions. Drivers must show their license, registration and proof of insurance to a peace officer upon request.
- The U.S. Supreme Court states it is reasonable and legal for a police officer to ask you and your passengers to exit the car.
- According to California law, any person using a disabled placard or plate must present identification and evidence of issuance of that placard or plate upon request of a peace officer. Failure to do so will be evidence of misuse and the placard or plate may be confiscated.
- According to California law, if you refuse to sign a citation, you may be arrested.

### **What You Should Do**

- Remain calm, stay in your vehicle unless asked to exit, and follow the officer's instructions.
- Keep your hands where the officer can see them.
- Avoid any sudden movements, and do not reach for your license or other items until the officer requests them.
- Ask any passengers in your car to remain calm and comply with the officer's instructions.
- Sign the citation if you receive one. Signing a citation is not an admission of guilt it's only a promise to appear in court.

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