

# What to do if Stoppoped by the Police



**Greenville**

NORTH CAROLINA

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

# What to Expect if You are Stopped

Every traffic stop is different, and a police officer may alter his or her response to fit the circumstance.

A Greenville police officer:

- Will tell you why you are being stopped.
- Will provide you their name and badge number upon request.
- Will, present proper identification if not wearing a patrol uniform.
- Will only use the force necessary to effect the arrest of a suspect and to maintain the custody of a 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 destruction of evidence.
- Will only arrest a person for crimes committed in the officer's presence, or when the officer has probable cause to believe a crime has already been committed.

# Why do Police Stop People?

There are many different reasons why you might be stopped by a police officer. Whatever the reason, the officer needs your cooperation:

- You may have committed a traffic violation.
- The officer may think you are in trouble and need help.
- You may have something broken on your vehicle.
- You may have witnessed a crime.

If you are stopped by the police, you may feel confused, anxious, or even angry. This is a natural reaction. But remember, traffic stops can be stressful and dangerous for police officers, too. Each year a number of officers are killed or injured while making the "routine traffic stop." Police officers are especially vulnerable during the nighttime hours.

North Carolina law requires a person to carry their driver's license with them when operating a motor vehicle.

If you have a complaint or concern about an interaction with the Greenville Police, please contact the Internal Affairs Unit of the Greenville Police Department at (252) 329-4373.



# If You Are Stopped by the Police, Remember:

- A police officer may stop you at any time for a traffic offense or police investigation.
- When you see the blue lights and/or hear the siren, remain calm and pull your car safely to the far right side of the road, or into a nearby parking lot.
- Remain inside your car unless the police officer advises you differently.
- If it is dark outside, turn on your interior dome light so the officer can easily see you and see inside your car. Remain calm, and encourage any passengers to stay quiet and to cooperate.



# If You Are Stopped by the Police, Remember:

- If you have a weapon inside the car with you, promptly tell the officer what you have and where it is located.
- Do not reach for documents in glove boxes or under seats unless you tell the officer first what you are doing.
- If you do not understand what the officer is doing, ask for clarification.
- If you receive a ticket, accept it calmly and avoid being argumentative. If you disagree with the ticket, you will have a chance to contest it in court.



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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

500 South Greene Street  
Greenville, NC 27834

**Emergency 911**

Non Emergency (252) 329-4300  
Information Desk (252) 329-4339



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