

Teens and Laws

Things You Should Know If You Are Stopped by Police

Portland Police Bureau
1111 SW 2nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97204



<http://www.portlandpolice.com>

Message from the Chief

This brochure provides information about why police make stops and what you can expect.

Common reasons to be stopped:

A person might be stopped if the officer has reason to believe the person:

- Committed a crime.
- Is about to commit a crime.
- Has evidence of a crime.
- May need help.
- May have information in an investigation.

Traffic stops: Things to do

- Stay calm and be courteous at all times.
- Slow down, pull over to the right and stop.
- Stay in your car with both hands on the steering wheel.
- Wait for the officer to approach.
- Do not get out of the vehicle unless asked to do so. Follow the officer's directions.
- Show the officer your driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance when asked.

Person stops: Things to do

- Keep your hands where the officer can see them.
- Don't put your hands in your pocket.
- Stay calm and stay put. Don't walk or run from police.
- Don't interfere with an officer making an arrest or making a traffic stop.
- If ordered, comply with the procedures for a search.

If you are arrested:

- You need to be told what you are being charged with.
- Ask what you are being charged with.
- Don't resist arrest, even if you disagree.
- If you are charged with a crime, you have the right to legal representation in court.



Driver's responsibility:

- Vehicle is insured; documents in the vehicle.
- Safe driving (make proper lane changes, stop at red lights and stop signs, signal to turn, make complete stops, obey posted speed).
- Safety of passengers: seatbelts and child restraints.
- Make sure passengers do not hang arms or legs out the window, or act disorderly.
- Owner's responsibility: the person driving the vehicle possesses a valid driver's license.

Curfew times:

Children and youth can also be stopped for curfew violations.

- **Under 14, not yet in high school:** School days – 9:15 p.m. to 6 a.m.; Non-school days – 10:15 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- **14 or older, in high school:** School days – 10:15 p.m. to 6 a.m.; Non-school days – 12 midnight to 6 a.m.

Authority of police:

- Police may use reasonable force to make an arrest or detain someone.
- Police can ask you for permission to search you or your property. Under certain circumstances, police can perform a warrantless search even if you do not give permission.
- Police can seize your property as evidence.
- If they have reasonable suspicion that you have a weapon, they can search you.



Constitutional/Miranda Rights

- You have the right to remain silent.
- Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.
- You have the right to talk to an attorney and have him/her present while you are questioned.
- If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you at no cost.

If you do not agree:

Keep track of all pertinent information about the stop, including the officer's name and identification number. You may ask for a business card. You have the ability to complain to the officer's supervisor or the Office of Independent Police Review, an independent complaint line.

Complaint and commendation forms are available at the precincts or from IPR, 1221 SW 4th, Room 320 or you can call 503-823-0146.