

## Why do police stop people?

**There are many different reasons why the police might stop you, whatever the reason, the officer needs your cooperation.**

- You may have committed a traffic or other violation.
- The officer might think you are in trouble and need help.
- You may be a potential witness to a crime.
- You may fit the description of a person the police are looking for.

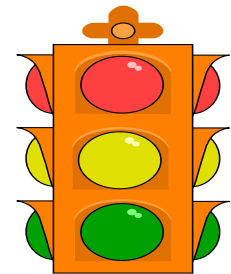
If you are stopped by the police you may feel confused, anxious, or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can be stressful and dangerous to the officer as well. Each year a number of law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured while making “routine traffic stops.”

**With this in mind, there are things you, the citizen, can do to make the contact safer, more efficient, and hopefully more positive.**



## When stopped by the police, please remember;

1. When you see the red light and/or hear the siren, remain calm and safely pull over to the right side of the road. If you are in an intersection, safely proceed through the intersection and immediately pull over to the right. It is not necessary to pull over in a legal parking space, if the officer wants you to move your vehicle to another location they will advise you.
2. Remain in your vehicle unless the officer advises otherwise. Many times there may be fast moving traffic, which is dangerous to you and the officer.
3. Be sure the officer is wearing a police uniform or is clearly identifiable as a police officer. If not, keep your door locked and ask for identification. Once you are satisfied you have been stopped by a police officer, roll your window down so the officer may speak to you.
4. Avoid any sudden movements, especially towards to the floorboards or under your seat. Try to keep your hands where the officer can see them. It is a good idea to keep both hands on the steering wheel.
5. Do not immediately reach for your license or other documents until the officer requests them. California law does require drivers to show their license, registration card, and insurance card to a police officer upon request.
6. If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.
7. If the stop occurs during darkness, the officer will likely use a bright spotlight and flashlight to illuminate your vehicle.
8. If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet and cooperate with all instructions.
9. The officer may issue you a ticket. If you feel the reason is vague or unclear, ask the officer for details.
10. If you are issued a ticket, don't argue with the officer. Please accept it calmly. Signing is not an admission of guilt; it is only a promise to appear. You will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.
11. The Davis Police Department generally uses single-officer patrol cars, motorcycles, and specialized vehicles. It is normal for additional officers to arrive, even on routine stops.



**Each situation is unique and the police officer must alter his or her response to fit the circumstances.**

**Davis Police Officers will:**

- Inform a person of the reason for being stopped.
- Use only that amount of restraint or force necessary to effect an arrest and to maintain custody of a lawfully stopped person.
- An officer who is not in uniform will present proper identification; you may request to examine their identification so that you are satisfied they are a law enforcement officer.
- Provide his or her name, or their supervisor's name, upon request.

**Under certain circumstances a police officer may search the vehicle, driver, or occupants after stopping a vehicle.**

**The driver and occupants may be searched when:**

- The person consents to the search.
- The driver or any occupant has been arrested and taken into custody.

- There is reasonable suspicion the driver or occupant possesses a weapon or has access to a weapon in the vehicle.

**The vehicle and contents may be searched when:**

- There is consent.
- There is reasonable suspicion there is a weapon in the vehicle and the driver or occupant poses a threat.
- The driver or occupant has been arrested.
- There is probable cause the vehicle contains evidence, contraband, or weapons.
- During an inventory of the vehicle prior to tow.

### *HOW ARE WE DOING?*

The Davis Police Department is committed to providing the best service possible. Citizen input and feedback is essential if we are to succeed in this goal. If you have questions about any specific action taken by the Department, or about how the Department operates, or you have a recommendation on how we can improve, you may call the Watch Commander at **(530) 747-5400**.



# TRAFFIC STOPS

**What To Do  
When Stopped By  
The Police**



**Davis Police Department**

**Landy Black  
Chief of Police**