

If the Police Come Knocking At Your Door?

If the police knock at your door and ask to come into your home, you do not have to let them in unless they have a warrant that has been signed by a judge. If they do have a warrant, ask for a copy of it first. If it is an arrest warrant, make sure that you look at the name on the warrant to make sure they have the right person. If



it is a search warrant, make sure it is for your specific address and note to see what is listed on the warrant to be searched for in your home. If the warrant is proper on its face, you must step aside and let the police enter your home.

If they do not have a warrant *YOU MAY, BUT DO NOT HAVE TO*, let them in unless they insist on coming in. perhaps you can settle this matter at the door. If they do insist, over your objections, then be careful to:

1. Ask to see an official badge and identification card
2. Ask what the purpose is in coming into your home
3. Let them in only after they insist upon coming in
4. If you object then make sure you tell them you do not consent to any search of your home
5. Remember the badge numbers, what they look like, and the time of day. Write it down.

When the police take any of your property, they are required to give you a written receipt for it. Do not hesitate to ask for this. They are not required, however, to give you a receipt for property they intend to book as evidence, such as stolen goods, guns, drugs, etc.

The police may search without a warrant whenever they arrest someone. They may search his person and the area close to where the arrest was made. This means in a home, they may search the room where the arrest was made.

They may search after consent has been given, so if you object be sure to make it clear that you do not agree to any kind of search. They can also search when there is an emergency (someone screaming for help from inside your home, or when they are chasing you or someone else into your home).

ALWAYS REMEMBER

1. If the police have stopped you, they think they have a reason to do so
2. It is best to remain calm and identify yourself when asked to do so
3. In many situations, you, or the persons with you, can talk your way INTO jail just as well as you can talk yourself out of jail. By yelling or threatening an officer, the BEST you can do is get yourself arrested.
4. Do not run. This will make them think they were right all along and give them a reason to arrest you when they may not have one.

We want your interactions with the police to be both safe and favorable. But above all, we want you to be able to **Walk Away From the BATTLE YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOSE**, so that you can *Win the WAR YOU MUST NOT LOSE!!*

CONTACT US TO HAVE THIS PRESENTATION BROUGHT TO YOUR AREA!

"What to Do When Stopped By The Police?" is also a very dynamic, educational, and informative presentation performed by members of NABLEO. It is a highly interactive forum that is designed to inform both the community and law enforcement through skits and brainstorming, placing great emphasis on how *NOT* to become a victim of police misconduct. Contact us about how to have this worthwhile program presented in your area.

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
BLACK LAW
ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS, INC.

P.O. Box 240854
Dorchester, MA 02124-0854
On The Web: www.blackcops.net

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“WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE?”



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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

“Good Cops and BAD COPS! - There ARE Differences.”

Citizen interaction with law enforcement, particularly in the African American and Latino communities, can often be a traumatic experience. However, being fully aware of your rights when you are stopped will help keep you from becoming a “police statistic”.



Let’s face it...there are GOOD COPS and THERE ARE BAD COPS! The GOOD one’s are those who treat people with dignity and respect, REGARDLESS of who they are, what they look like, or what they are being charged with. Unfortunately, THE BAD ONE’S *have no idea what those terms mean.* We believe *you should know* what police officers CAN AND CANNOT DO when they stop your car, confront you on the street, or come knocking at the door to your home. This makes your interaction safer for *YOU AND FOR US.*

NABLEO exists to help the community. By insuring that law enforcement officers and the agencies they work for are sensitive to the needs and concerns of the community, we further insure that the criminal justice system and it’s practitioners provide fair and equitable treatment to all members of society, particularly those in the Black and Latino community, where the scourge of Biased-Based Policing, Police Misconduct, and other systemic abuses has hit the hardest. We provide community strength, ensure community justice, and provide a strong presence in times of crisis.

Representing dedicated Black and Latino police officers around the nation, we stand for unity, justice and peace.

We hope this pamphlet will be helpful. We urge you, however, do not rely on this as legal advice. But the information presented here may keep you from having to go to jail.

If you are stopped by the Police ON THE STREET...

Most of the problems that you may have with the police can be avoided at the time they first stop and question you. **REMEMBER—THEY THINK** they have a good reason (probable cause) to stop you and ask you questions.

At this point, you should STOP AND GET YOURSELF TOGETHER. Whether or not you are arrested may very well depend on how much you have gotten yourself together by the time you have to answer who you are. (In other words, CHECK YOUR ATTITUDE!)



There are many factors that a police officer will take into consideration when he/she is observing you and thinks you have done something wrong. Every situation is different and they will usually consider the following factors:

1. When you are running away from an area where a crime has just been reported
2. If you are hanging out with people that are already under investigation for one thing or another.
3. You are somewhere where they think people have no legitimate reason to be at that time of day or night.
4. When you are acting in a way that appears very suspicious, and you act even more so when they see that you have spotted them.
5. He/she thinks you have stolen property in your possession.
6. They stop you while walking or driving and you refuse to answer simple questions, give false or evasive answers, or make contradictory statements
7. Someone has pointed you out to them
8. When you start immediately by bad-mouthing or cursing at them...you may be saying the wrong things at the wrong time
9. When you are near an area where a crime has been committed

While all of these things are taken into consideration by the officer in determining whether to stop you or ask you more questions, **THEY MUST STILL RESPECT YOUR RIGHTS NOT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION THE MOMENT THE QUESTIONS SOUND LIKE YOU ARE BEING ACCUSED OF SOMETHING.**

If you are stopped while driving your car.



DRIVER’S LICENSE, VEHICLE REGISTRATION, PROOF OF INSURANCE!! MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THESE. The police officer can ask you to pull over at anytime. You will be asked to show these items. If you do not have a driver’s license, if it is expired or suspended, or if you are using someone else’s as your own,

then you will likely receive a ticket, and may possibly be arrested. If the license plate or sticker has expired or is stolen, they may give you a ticket, and tow your vehicle or place you under arrest. If you do not have proof of insurance, they may issue you a ticket and require you to appear in court. They may also tow your car. And, if you protest too strongly or in a manner that they think is insulting or threatening to them, they may start checking your entire car for vehicle code violations (no license illumination, turn signals not working, inspection sticker expired or invalid, wrong VIN # listed on registration, etc.). Or worse, you may find yourself being arrested and taken to jail. This is unfortunate, but true. A simple traffic violation stop may start costing you a fortune in fines for other violations, and unnecessary or unneeded time away from your job.

What SHOULD You Do?

The **BEST THING** to do is to simply *pull over and sit tight.* If you are stopped at night, turn on your interior lights and show them that nothing is wrong. It is best to do and say nothing that would give the officer a reason to search further. Having your light on and keeping your hands on the wheel will usually put their mind at ease. When they ask for your ID, if it is in the glove compartment, tell them it is there so that they do not think you are trying to either hide something or remove something that they think will be used to hurt them. If there are others in the car with you, advise them to get their selves together, just as you have.



The police **HAVE THE RIGHT** to ask for your identification when they stop you in your car. They **HAVE THE RIGHT** to ask to see your registration. And they **HAVE THE RIGHT** to ask for your proof of insurance. And, if they find something seriously wrong, they may also **HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEARCH YOUR VEHICLE!!!**

You **HAVE THE RIGHT** to know what you are being stopped for. You **HAVE THE RIGHT** to know if you are being issued a traffic citation. You **HAVE A RIGHT** to know the officer’s badge or unit number and name (it will likely be written on the ticket, if they issue you one).

If you think you have received a ticket unjustly, take the matter to Traffic Court. **DO NOT** try to argue your point at the scene. Overreacting can create a more serious situation.