

# WHAT TO DO IF STOPPED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT



*Traffic stops can be stressful ... knowing the steps involved can help reduce the natural anxiety.*



## What You Need to Know

Flashing lights and/or siren indicate you must pull over where it is safe and where you will not block traffic.

California law requires all drivers to provide their driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance to a law enforcement officer, upon request.

If it is dark, the deputy will use a bright spotlight or flashlight to illuminate you and your car.

It is reasonable and legal for a deputy to ask you and your passengers to exit the vehicle.

## What You Should Do

Remain in your vehicle, keep your hands where the deputy can see them, and follow his or her instructions.

Avoid any sudden movements, and do not reach for your license or other items until requested by the deputy.

Sign the citation if you receive one. Your signature is not admission of guilt, it simply means that you promise to appear in court at a later date.

**Being stopped by a sheriff's deputy can be uncomfortable. Deputies share your feelings. Each year, law enforcement officers across the nation are assaulted, injured or killed in the line of duty. All drivers should be familiar with traffic stop procedures, including what to expect and do.**

## What You Can Expect

Deputies are trained to be courteous and professional when they conduct traffic stops. When it is safe and practical to do so, the deputy will provide identification, upon request. Within a reasonable time, the deputy will explain why you were stopped.

## Why Deputies Conduct Stops

Public safety is the primary reason for any stop, for example:

**Traffic Violations** (speeding, running a red light or stop sign, neglecting to yield the right of way or use a turn signal)

**Crime Suspect** (individuals and/or their vehicles that match the description associated with a crime investigation)

**Vehicle Code Violation** (broken taillight, missing license plates, heavily tinted windows, burned out headlight)



## Contact Us

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909.839.7010 or 909.348.8334

This leaflet is part of a series of public safety-related materials co-created by City of Diamond Bar and L.A. County Sheriff's Department and available on the City website for viewing, downloading, and sharing.

[www.diamondbarca.gov/publicsafety](http://www.diamondbarca.gov/publicsafety)

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