



William R. Connors
Police Commissioner

POLICE DEPARTMENT

City of Rye, New York

21 McCullough Place

Rye, N. Y. 10580

Phone: (914) 967-1234

FAX: (914) 967-8341



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BEING PULLED OVER BY THE POLICE

The sight of a police car's red lights (or in other states, blue lights) in the rear view mirror is unsettling to any driver, but it can be particularly intimidating for a new driver. The following recommendations have been prepared by the City of Rye Police Department to ensure that your encounter with the police is no more unpleasant than it has to be. If you see a police car approaching with its lights and sirens activated and it appears to be responding to an emergency, pull to the side of the road and get out of its way. If it appears that the officer is signaling you to stop:

- 1.) Use your turn signal to indicate that you are pulling over. Pull over and slow to a stop as soon as you see the officer's lights and/or hear the siren behind you. Move to the right as far as possible so that the Officer will be able to safely approach your car without being in the roadway. Do not stop in intersections or blocking a driveway. Do not keep driving in order to pull into a parking lot where you may obstruct the flow of traffic. The Officer dictates the location of the stop when he or she activates the emergency lights/siren. Just pull over to the right as safely as possible. If the officer wants you to move to another location, he or she may give you directions using a public address loudspeaker; listen to those directions.
- 2.) As soon as you come to a stop put your vehicle in park; turn off your stereo/hang up the phone (which may be why you're being pulled over), extinguish your cigarette in the vehicle's ash tray (not flinging it out the window) if you are smoking; lower your window (if it is nighttime you should turn on an interior light); and then place both hands on the steering wheel and wait for the Officer's instructions. Do not attempt to exit the vehicle unless instructed to do so by the Officer.
- 3.) If you are concerned that the person who stopped you is not actually a police officer (for example, the car that pulled you over is unmarked), you can ask the officer to call a marked police car or supervisor to the scene, or dial 911 from your cell phone and relay your concerns to the operator.
- 4.) Officers generally do not know your age, race or sex when you are stopped at night. *(Statistically, vehicle stops are the most dangerous part of a police officer's job; the officer stopping the vehicle does not know if he or she is stopping a mere traffic violator, a wanted person, or someone in flight from the commission of a serious crime.)* Remember to keep your hands where the Officer can see them. Officers understand that you will most likely need to get into your glove compartment, wallet, purse or console to retrieve the appropriate paperwork. Wait until the officer asks for these items before reaching for them. **Try to remember that the officer has no idea who you are or what your intentions are.** Additional officers often respond

to stops to make sure everything is all right. It is not unusual to see two or three patrol cars at a normal traffic stop.

5.) In most cases the Officer will tell you why he or she stopped you. If they do not, and you don't know why you were stopped, you may ask in a polite and courteous manner. Be honest with the officer; do not lie. Provide the Officer with the paperwork he or she requests. It is your responsibility as the driver of the vehicle to make sure that your vehicle meets all equipment requirements, and that you have a current and valid driver's license, insurance, and registration. Passengers in violation of traffic laws (i.e., not wearing a seatbelt) are also required to provide identification.

6.) The above rules also apply if you come upon a safety or DWI checkpoint. Make sure you SLOW DOWN upon approaching police activity in the road as you would for a construction zone or other obstruction, and follow the instructions of the Officer in the roadway. Do not attempt to make a u-turn, as an Officer will then have to pursue you to make a vehicle stop and you are more likely to get a ticket.

7.) The Officer is there for your safety as well as everyone else's on the road; that is their job. If you are summonsed and you do not understand the charge, don't argue with the officer. You will have an opportunity to speak to him or her again in front of a judge at a later date. If you've ever had a bad experience with a police officer, don't hold it against the next officer that stops you. They are all different and can have bad days too. That's not an excuse for an officer's conduct, just a possible explanation.

8.) Remember that using a handheld cell phone or texting while driving are dangerous and illegal activities. Driving a car is a responsibility that requires your complete attention.

If you have questions about traffic regulations or about the legality of vehicle equipment, please feel free to call the City of Rye Police Department for advice at (914) 967-1234. We wish you the best of luck as you begin driving. Drive safely!