

## Helpful Rules of the Road

Three reminders:

### **Carry Proper Identification:**

When driving a motor vehicle, you must be a valid operator who has been issued a license or permit. You must have this license in your possession when you drive.

### **Carry Proof of Insurance:**

State law requires proof of current insurance which must be presented to police during a traffic stop or vehicle accident when requested.

### **Driver Responsibilities:**

You are responsible for the condition, contents, and occupants of your vehicle.

## Questions, Compliments, Complaints

If you have a question about procedures, a complaint, or compliment about your treatment, contact the Department and ask to speak with a precinct supervisor or you can contact the Bureau of Professional Standards at 314-615-5340. You may also send a complimentary letter to the Chief of Police if you feel the officer was particularly helpful in your situation.

Police Services	
Resources	
Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	636-529-8210
TTY Hearing Impaired	636-529-8220 or 911
Precincts	
North County	314-615-4297
Central County	314-615-0111
Affton-Southwest	314-638-5550
South County	314-615-0162
City of Fenton	636-349-8120
City of Wildwood	636-458-9194
West County	636-225-0425
City of Jennings	314-385-4672
Important Phone Numbers	
Bureau of Professional Standards	314-615-5340



The St. Louis County Police Department is interested in citizen's opinions about our agency and its employees. Please visit the website below and take our survey.

[www.stlouiscountypolice.com/citizen-resources/citizen-satisfaction-survey/](http://www.stlouiscountypolice.com/citizen-resources/citizen-satisfaction-survey/)



[stlouiscountypolice.com](http://stlouiscountypolice.com)

## Helpful Things to Know if a Police Officer Stops Your Vehicle



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St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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# Why do police conduct traffic stops?

There are many different reasons why you might be stopped by the police. Whatever the reason, the officer needs your cooperation.

- You may have committed a traffic violation.
- Your vehicle may have equipment or registration violations.
- Your vehicle may fit the description of a “wanted” vehicle.
- The officer might think that you are in trouble and need help.

Remember Missouri State statute requires all drivers shall yield the right-of-way, move their vehicle as far to the right as possible and stop.

If you are stopped by the police while driving, you may feel confused, anxious or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can also be stressful and dangerous for the police officer. Each year, a significant number of law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured while making the “routine traffic stop.” This also explains why it is normal for another police vehicle to stop to assist. With this in mind, there are things you can do to help alleviate any uneasiness that might be associated with the experience.

# When stopped by a police officer, remember:

- A police officer may pull your vehicle over for a traffic offense or police investigation.
- When you see the red and blue overhead lights and/or hear the siren, remain calm and safely pull over to the right side of the road.
- Police officers are trained to ask for identification. Providing your documentation will simplify and speed up the process. Remember, the officer is in uniform with a name tag displayed. You have the advantage of knowing with whom you are dealing. Extend the same courtesy by providing the requested identification.
- Remain in your vehicle unless the officer advises otherwise.
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel so the officer can see them.
- Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floorboard, rear seat, or passenger side of the vehicle.
- Do not immediately reach for your license or other documents until the officer requests them.
- If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.
- If the stop occurs during darkness, turn on your dome or interior lights so the officer can easily see the interior of the vehicle.

- Spotlights are used for the safety of all persons involved. They are not meant to intimidate or embarrass anyone.
- If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet and cooperate with instructions. You, as the operator, are responsible for your vehicle and its occupants.
- The officer may issue you a citation. If you feel the reason is vague or unclear, ask the officer for details.
- If you do not agree with the citation or the officer’s demeanor, do not argue at the scene. All citizens have the right to question their citation before a judge. Each police department has an internal affairs system in place to investigate citizen complaints.
- Traffic stops are a very important law enforcement function, providing an effective tool in the identification and apprehension of criminals. Traffic stops also reduce crashes and increase roadway safety.

## Mission Statement

“The Mission of the St. Louis County Police Department is to work cooperatively with the public, and within the framework of the Constitution to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear and provide a safe environment in our neighborhoods.”

Approved at the meeting of the Board of Police Commissioner's, April 21, 1992.