



THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE  
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
P.O. Box 1706 \* Montclair, NJ 07042 \* 973-746-0085 \* Mobile 973-518-2990  
E-Mail: [info@ninaacp.org](mailto:info@ninaacp.org) \* Web Address: [www.ninaacp.org](http://www.ninaacp.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: NAACP Legal Redress

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Keeping Safe on our roads by making the right choices in dealing with the police...  
When pulled over by the police for an apparent motor vehicle violation:  
You have the right.....

Not to give information that can be used against you.

However, everyone should follow these three (3) basic rules:

Show respect: Act respectful and you'll probably be respected. In the end, this may help you more than you think.

Cooperate: When you are uncooperative the police may have no choice but to get tough.

Be honest: Anything less will ruin your credibility with the office.

All of us must recognize that police officers have a difficult and dangerous job. They have to approach every traffic stop as if it could be hazardous or fatal. For that reason, they maintain a defensive posture that can seem stern or gruff. The police have the right to stop and question people provided they can show a reason. So, don't resist being stopped....you can and should ask (politely) the officer's reason for stopping you, even if you already think you know the reason. They will generally give you the reason after they find out who they are dealing with.....get your identification.

So, if you are stopped in your vehicle.....

Slow down and pull over as soon as you can safely do so. If you are not sure that it is the police because it is an unmarked car and you cannot identify the driver as a uniformed police officer, put on your warning lights (flashers) and drive below the speed limit to the nearest well-lighted populated spot and then pull over.

Stay in the driver's seat with both hands in sight on the steering wheel. Do not get out of your car unless asked to do so. Do so when not requested may look aggressive or appear to threaten the officer's safety. Turn on your interior light if stopped at night. Comply with the officer's request to see your driver's license, registration and insurance card. If these are not in plain view, tell the officer's where they are and ask permission to retrieve them. When permitted, do so very slowly.

If issued a ticket, courteously take the ticket and consider seeking legal advice.

The above information is adapted from "The Law and You" a general information pamphlet by Allstate Insurance Company and is not intended to replace advice by a qualified legal advisor. If unsure of your rights, contact an attorney.

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