

Helpful Suggestions

Compliance with the following items will help reduce any problems you may experience during a traffic stop:

Carry proper identification.

In order for you to lawfully operate a motor vehicle, you need a valid state driver's license (or permit) and be able to exhibit it upon request.

Have vehicle registration

You are required by law to show your vehicle registration upon request.

Carry proof of insurance.

You are required by law to show valid proof of vehicle insurance upon request.

Know your responsibilities.

When you operate a motor vehicle, even if you do not own it, you are responsible for the registration, inspection, and license plates. As the driver, you are also responsible for the vehicle condition, contents, and occupants.



Fort Wayne Police Department:
911 - Emergencies Only

For All Non-Emergency Requests:
260-427-1222 Police Desk

Helpful Numbers:

Community Relations 427-1207
Crime Prevention 427-5999
Crime Scene 427-1333
Crime Stoppers 436-7867 or 1-800-237-STOP
Detective Bureau 427-1201
Drug Tip Hotline 427-1262
Evidence & Property 427-2034
Internal Affairs 427-1424
Juvenile Section 427-1202
Laboratory Services 427-1195
Missing Persons 427-1202
Northeast Division 427-1040
Northwest Division 427-1421
Public Information Office 427-1207
Records 427-2020
Safety Village 427-1241
Southeast Division 427-1319
Southwest Division 427-1419
Vice & Narcotics 427-1203
Victim Assistance 427-1205

Fort Wayne Police Department



Helpful things to know if
a Police Officer stops
your vehicle

Fort Wayne Police Department
1 E. Main Street, Suite 108
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
www.fwpd.org

Non-emergency: (260) 427-1222

Emergency: CALL 911

Why do Police stop people?

Reasons why you might be stopped by police:

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ You may appear to be in trouble or in need of help.

If you are stopped by the police while driving you may feel confused, anxious, or angry. It might help you to remember that traffic stops can be equally stressful for a police officer. Every year a significant number of law enforcement officers are killed or injured while making seemingly "routine" traffic stops. Your cooperation and compliance with the police officer's directions can make the traffic stop safe and uneventful for all involved.



Things to remember if stopped by the Police.

- ✦ A police officer may stop you at any time for a traffic offense or police investigation.
- ✦ When you see the activated police lights and/or hear the police siren, remain calm and safely move your vehicle as far to the right as the roadway allows. Leave enough space for the officer to safely approach you.
- ✦ Remain in your vehicle unless otherwise directed by the officer.
- ✦ If the stop occurs after dark, turn on your dome or interior light so the officer can see you. If the officer uses a bright spotlight, it is not to intimidate or embarrass you, but for the safety of all persons involved.
- ✦ Keep your hands on the steering wheel so the officer can see them.
- ✦ Do not immediately reach for your license or other documents. Wait for the officer to request them. If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.
- ✦ Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floor or seats. If you have passengers, encourage them to do the same. You, as the operator, are responsible for your vehicle and its occupants.

The Officer may issue you a ticket.

After determining that you violated a law, the police officer has the option of arresting you (taking you to jail) or issuing you a citation. If you are issued a citation, you will be asked to sign it. Your signature is not an admission of guilt, but an agreement that in lieu of going to jail, you will contact the court and make arrangements to dispose of the charge(s).

- ✦ If you do not agree with the citation, do not argue at the scene or refuse to sign the ticket. You should contact the court and contest the citation before the judge.
- ✦ If you do not agree with the officer's demeanor, do not argue at the scene. Contact the police dispatch and ask to speak to the supervisor for the officer. You may also file an official complaint with the Office of Professional Standards-Internal Affairs by going online to: <http://www.fwpd.org/file-an-internal-affairs-complaint>.
- ✦ If you want to commend an officer, you can go to www.fwpd.org/commend-an-officer.