

*Each situation is unique and the police officer must alter his/her response to fit the circumstance.*

**GENERALLY, a Police Officer:**

- ✓ Will provide his or her name upon request.
- ✓ Who is not in uniform will present proper identification; you may ask to see their credentials. This will let you know that they are a law enforcement officer.
- ✓ Will tell you why you are being stopped.
- ✓ Will only use force if necessary. This may be to arrest a suspect or to keep a prisoner in custody.
- ✓ Will not search the body of a person of the opposite sex except to prevent injury to the officer or another person, or to prevent the disposal or destruction of evidence.
- ✓ Will only arrest a person for a crime committed in the officer's presence, or when the officer has probable cause to believe the person has already committed a crime.

**QUESTIONS  
COMPLIMENTS  
COMPLAINTS**

If you have a question about what we do or a complaint about your treatment you can contact the Everett Police Department (in-person or on the phone) and ask to speak with the Officer-in-Charge. We also have complaint forms on the department's website. Also, please let us know if we have helped you in any way. You may send a letter of compliment at any time.

**Everett Police Department  
Mission Statement:**

*The Mission of the Everett Police Department is to provide community oriented law enforcement designed to protect life and property, maintain order, while ensuring fair and equal treatment for all.*

Front Desk / Officer-in-Charge:	(617) 389-2120
Dispatch Center:	(617) 387-1212
Emergency:	911
Chief's Office:	(617) 394-2365

**For more information, please visit the  
Everett Police Department's web site at:**

<http://www.everettpolicema.com>

**What to expect  
when stopped by the  
Police**



**Everett Police Department**

**45 Elm Street, Everett MA 02149**

**"Serving with Pride Since 1870"**

# Why do the police stop people?

There are many different reasons why you might be stopped by the police.

Whatever the reason, the officer needs you to cooperate.

- You may have broken a traffic rule
- You may look like a suspect
- The officer might think you are in trouble and need help
- You may have seen a crime

## **REMEMBER:**

*In all cases, you should be courteous and cooperate with the police. You can expect the police to treat you with courtesy and respect.*

People have different feelings when stopped by the police while driving. Some may feel confused, anxious or even angry. These are natural feelings.

Traffic stops can also be stressful and dangerous for police officers. Each year many police officers are killed or injured during “routine traffic” stops. These stops can be more dangerous when it is dark outside.

## **WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE REMEMBER:**

1. A police officer may pull you over at anytime for a traffic offense, or if they are helping to solve a crime.
2. If you see or hear a police car behind you with emergency lights and/or siren on remain calm. Safely pull over to the right side of the road.
3. Stay in your car unless the officer asks you to do something else.
4. Keep your hands on the steering wheel. This is so the officer can see them.
5. Do not make any quick moves. Do not move quickly towards the floor, back seat or passenger side of the car.
6. Wait until the officer asks for your driver’s license, vehicle registration, or other documents (passport, paperwork with home address) before reaching for them.
7. If you cannot reach your documents, tell the officer where they are before reaching for them.
8. If you are stopped at night, turn on your inside light. This lets the officer see that everything is OK.
9. Ask the other people in the car to stay quiet, and ask them to cooperate with the officer.
10. The officer may give you a ticket. If you do not know why, please ask the officer politely for details.
11. Please do not argue with the officer. This will not help. You may contest the ticket in court. The ticket has information on how to do this.
12. Be honest with the officer. If you did not see the stop sign, or did not know the speed limit, let the officer know. Being honest never hurts.
13. You may see two or more cars at a traffic stop. This is normal.
14. Stay calm, if you get a ticket, just take it. You are not admitting to guilt, this is just a promise to pay the fine or to appear in court

