

Mount Holly Police
Department
Traffic Stop Guidelines



Mount Holly Police Department
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- **Understanding the Purpose/Goal of a Traffic Stop:**

- To increase the safety of other drivers, pedestrians, and law enforcement officers.
- To educate the driver on the violation or infraction that caused the traffic stop to occur through verbal/written warning, arrest or citation when warranted.
- The ultimate goal of a traffic stop is to inform the driver of their mistake while operating a motor vehicle in order to correct the infraction and prevent the infraction from reoccurring.

- **Do's and Don'ts of a Traffic Stop:**

- **Do:**

- Keep both hands on the steering wheel and in plain view unless instructed differently by the officer. This applies to all passengers as well.
- Answer all questions clearly and to the furthest extent.
- Carry all proper identification. (Driver's License, Insurance, etc.)
- Be respectful and compliant with the officer.

- **Don't:**

- Argue or attempt to persuade or negotiate with the officer for any reason.
- Touch the police officer.
- Exit the vehicle, unless you are instructed by the officer to do so.
- Attempt to flee the traffic stop.
- Make any sudden movements.

What to do when stopped by an officer

- Remain calm.
- Turn on your right turn signal, and pull your car over to the right side of the roadway. When pulling your car over, make sure that your car is pulled over as far right as possible.
- Turn off your vehicle and any other objects that may distract your communication with the officer.
- Roll down your window and remain fastened in your seatbelt.
- Keep both hands on the steering wheel and do not make any sudden movements. All other passengers inside of the vehicle should also have their hands in plain view.
- If you have a weapon on you or inside of your car, immediately notify the officer of what type of weapon as well as the location of the weapon before reaching for any form of identification requested by the officer.
- You should carry proper identification and present the identification to the officer once requested.
- Be respectful and compliant and in turn the officer will be respectful.

What occurs during a traffic stop:

After you have pulled over as far as possible off of the right side of the roadway, the officer will approach the driver's side window of your vehicle if safety permits. Once the officer approaches your window, the officer will ask you to present your driver's license, vehicle registration, and your proof of insurance. They may also request the identification of all other passengers in the vehicle if needed. Once the officer has finished reviewing your license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance, the officer will return to the driver's side window of your vehicle, if safety permits, and advise you with either a verbal warning or citation. The officer may also provide you with further information regarding the traffic stop. Once the officer is finished providing you with all information and has completed the traffic stop, the officer will give you permission to leave. During the traffic stop, feel free to ask any questions only regarding to the traffic stop, however when asking questions do not argue with the officer for any reason. Keep in mind that during the entire duration of the traffic stop that you are to abide by all rules and expectations of the traffic stop procedures listed above. If you have any further questions after the traffic stop has been completed, then you may contact the officer of that traffic stop at the police department.