



# What to do and not do if you get pulled over...

## DO

- **Pull over to a safe area.**
  - The police officer will need to stop behind you and approach your car, so make sure you pull into an area that gives the officer enough room to move safely.
- **Stay in the car.**
  - One of the most threatening actions you can do is to get out of your car. If you exit your car, the officer will immediately get defensive and the situation can quite quickly escalate.
- **Turn the engine off.**
  - The police officer will instruct you to shut it down if you haven't done so already. If your engine is on as the officer approaches, he or she will be considering the possibility that you're a flight risk.
- **Stay visible.**
  - In order to keep the traffic stop as non-threatening as possible, ensure that you are as visible as possible. Open your window before the officer starts to come your way and turn on your car's interior light so that they do not have to get anxious about what's going on inside the car.
- **Remain calm.**
  - If you're calm, there's less likelihood of the officer having a reason to feel threatened and the traffic stop will go smoothly.

## DON'T

- **Don't argue with the officer.**
  - You'll have the option to fight it in court if you choose, but arguing about it with the officer simply appears combative and will make the officer respond firmly.
- **Don't admit wrongdoing.**
  - Don't admit what you did or did not do to the officer. Anything you say to the officer can be used in court against you so remember to limit your comments to the officer.
- **Don't be rude.**
  - Rudeness is construed as being combative and shows the officer you don't respect their authority. Don't insult, berate, or make snide comments to the officer, especially if you'd like leniency from them.
- **Don't joke around.**
  - Like being rude, joking around during a traffic stop doesn't show respect for the authority and the serious risk that the officer takes in making each traffic stop.