

Dear Motorist,

Please review the following information contained in this pamphlet. It will explain the officer's actions as you relate it to your traffic stop.

All of the officer's actions do have your safety, as well as the officer's safety, in mind. We hope you find this information useful.

Please feel free to pass this along to other motorists so that we may all enjoy safe vehicular travel.

Sincerely,



Dwight A. Baird
Chief of Police

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WHY AM I BEING STOPPED BY THE POLICE?

The most likely reason why people are stopped while driving a motor vehicle is for violations of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

These violations fall into two categories; moving and equipment violations.

Other reasons you may be stopped include:

- ★ Criminal investigations: you or your vehicle may match the description of a suspect in a crime.
- ★ Courtesy or safety concerns: your trunk may be open, or something may be hanging from, or be on top of your vehicle.

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What you should do:

- ★ A police officer may stop your vehicle at any time for a traffic offense or police investigation.
- ★ Red & blue lights and/or a siren mean pull over to the right where it is safe and where you will not block traffic.
- ★ Remain in your vehicle unless the officer advises otherwise.
- ★ If it is dark, the officer will use a bright spotlight or flashlight to illuminate you and your car.

- ★ Do not immediately reach for your license or other documents until the officer requests them. Illinois State Law requires drivers to show their license, registration, and insurance card upon request.
- ★ Depending on the circumstances, officers may request identification from passengers.
- ★ Remain in your vehicle, keep your hands where the officer can see them and follow his or her instructions.
- ★ It is reasonable and legal for an officer to require that you and your passengers get out of the vehicle, but do not get out until he or she asks you.
- ★ Ask all passengers in your car to remain calm and comply with the officer's instructions.
- ★ Avoid becoming argumentative. Arguing will not change the officer's decision. If you want to contest the violation, you will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.

Remember...if you receive a ticket, accept it calmly. Accepting it is **NOT** an admission of guilt.

Each traffic stop 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.
- ★ When they are not in uniform will present proper identification: you may request to examine their credentials so that you are satisfied they are a law enforcement officer.
- ★ Will inform a person of the reason(s) for being stopped.
- ★ Will only use the force necessary to effect the arrest of a suspect and to maintain custody of the prisoner.
- ★ 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 the crime.

If you have a question about procedures or a complaint about your treatment, contact the Department and ask to speak with a supervisor at (630) 551-7300.

You may also send a letter of compliment to 3525 Route 34, Oswego, Illinois 60543, if you feel the officer was particularly helpful in your situation.

The information contained in this pamphlet is provided to you by the Oswego Police Department Traffic Unit.

We hope the information in this pamphlet will be helpful in answering common questions about traffic stop procedures and in reducing the stress when stopped by the police.

Oswego Police (front desk).....551-7300
Non-Emergency dispatch.....554-3426
Emergency..... 911

Our Mission

The Oswego Police Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life by ensuring the safety of the community through the protection of life, liberty and property.

We will continue to foster cooperation by building diverse partnerships and serving the community with integrity, professionalism and compassion.

WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE

Oswego Police Department



A Nationally Accredited Police Agency

www.oswegopoliceil.org