

What happens if I'm arrested?

- You will be informed of your charges
- Don't resist arrest, even if you disagree with the reason or the charge
- After your arrest, you have the right to legal representation
- If you are a foreign national, law enforcement officers have a legal obligation to advise you of your right to communicate with your corresponding Consulate and if requested should make contact without delay

What are my constitutional rights?

If you are being questioned after an arrest, all persons (juveniles and adults) have the following rights, referred to as the Miranda rights:

- You have the right to remain silent
- Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law
- You have the right to talk to an attorney and have him or her present while you are questioned
- If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you at no expense
- And if a juvenile, depending on your age, you may have a parent, guardian, or custodian present during questioning

What do the police have a right to do?

- Police may use reasonable force to make an arrest or detain someone
- If police have probable cause, they can search you, your vehicle, and, with a search, your residence
- If police have probable cause that a crime has been committed, they can seize the property related to that crime



CONTACT US

Emergency Police - 911

Communications - 828-328-5551

Records - 828-324-2060

Office of the Chief of Police
828-261-2600



HICKORY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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WHAT TO DO IF STOPPED BY THE POLICE?



HICKORY POLICE DEPARTMENT

CORE VALUES

- P - Professionalism**
 - Committed to providing the highest quality of police service to our customers
 - Consistently striving to create an environment to foster Honor, Dedication and Pride in our Coworkers
- A - Accountability**
 - Obligated to our community to provide a high degree of effective and efficient public safety
 - Accepting responsibility for our actions and doing what is right
- C - Compassion**
 - Respect for diversity and individual rights while performing selfless service to others
 - Caring for the well being of the members of our department and treating them with fairness
- T - Team work**
 - Building partnerships to ensure customer success
 - Partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life within the City of Hickory
 - Recognizing each individual as a valued member of our team to accomplish our mission

Driver and Owner Responsibilities

What are my responsibilities as the owner of a vehicle?

As the owner, it is your responsibility to ensure that the person driving the vehicle has a valid driver's license and is a safe driver

What are my responsibilities as a driver?

As the driver, it is your responsibility to ensure that the vehicle you're driving is insured and that the proper vehicle registration and proof of insurance are in the car.

You are also responsible for:

- The conduct of the passengers, including throwing trash out the window or acting in a disorderly manner
- Ensuring that all passengers are wearing their seatbelts and that children are properly secured

What must I have to lawfully operate a motor vehicle?

- Valid driver's license
- Valid vehicle registration
- Proof of current insurance

What if I don't have a valid driver's license, vehicle registration or proof of current insurance with me when I'm stopped?

Depending on the circumstances:

- You could be issued a citation
- You could be arrested
- Your vehicle could be towed

Police At Your Home

Why are the police at my home?

A police officer can enter a residence if:

- You give them consent
- Police have an arrest or search warrant
- There are urgent circumstances, i.e., in pursuit of a suspect who just entered your home, or police believe a suspect or evidence will be lost if they wait
- Police are performing community care-taking functions, first aid or preventing serious harm

Traffic Stops

Why am I being stopped by the police?

- The most common reason is traffic violations
- Criminal investigation: you or your vehicle may match the description of a suspect in a crime
- Courtesy or safety concerns: your trunk is open, item hanging from or on top of your car
- A warrant exists for an occupant of the vehicle

I'm being pulled over by the police, what should I do?

- Slow down and safely pull over to the right side of the road coming to a complete stop
- Leave your seat belt fastened and stay in the car unless instructed otherwise
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel and avoid sudden movements
- Inform officer of any concealed weapons
- When asked, show the officer your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance
- Be respectful, even if you disagree with the reason you've been stopped

Why did you stop me?

- The officer will tell you why you were stopped and will choose to give a warning or issue a citation
- If issued a citation, the reason will be stated on that document
- If still unsure of the reason for the stop, ask the officer

I disagree with the reason I was stopped, what should I do?

- Keep track of all pertinent information about the stop, including the officer's name
- If you disagree with a citation, you have the right to present your case to a judge
- If you have a complaint about an officer's conduct, please contact the HPD Watch Commander at 828-328-5551 after you are released from the stop

Other Police Interactions

Why am I being stopped by the police?

A person might be stopped if the officer has reason to believe the person:

- Has committed a crime
- Is about to commit a crime
- Has evidence of a crime
- Has information about a crime
- Alerting people of safety concerns
- Community Policing Interaction

What should I do if I'm stopped?

- Keep your hands where officers can see them, do not put them in your pockets
- Stay put and stay calm, don't walk or run away from police
- Don't interfere with an officer making an arrest, traffic stop or questioning other persons
- If ordered to do so, comply with the procedures for a search. You may be subjected to a frisk for weapons if the officer has reason to believe that you may be carrying a weapon
- Searches may be conducted by an officer of the opposite sex to prevent injury to the officer or another person, or to prevent the disposal or destruction of evidence

I disagree with the reason I was stopped, what should I do?

- Keep track of all pertinent information about the stop, including the officer's name
- If arrested and disagree with the reason for your arrest, you have the right to legal representation and all sides of your case can be presented in court to the judge
- If you have a complaint about this officer's conduct, please contact the HPD Watch Commander at 828-328-5551 after you are released