

## RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

- Police officers in Michigan are trained to use only the force reasonably necessary to make the arrest
- **If arrested, do not resist – this may justify a need for greater force by the officer**
- Excessive force beyond that needed to perform the officer's duty is not tolerated and illegal

## VIDEO RECORDING

- You do have the right to record an interaction with the police
- An officer will only seize the recording if the officer believes the recorded video or audio contains evidence that must be protected

## RIGHTS IF ARRESTED

- After being arrested, if questioned about a crime:
  - ◆ You have the right to remain silent
  - ◆ Anything you say can be used against you in a court of law
  - ◆ You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him present with you while you are being questioned
  - ◆ If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you at no expense
- Officers are not required to advise suspects of their Miranda rights immediately upon arrest
- Phone calls after arrest are not a right. Phone calls may be allowed if you are cooperative

## IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE BEING TREATED UNPROFESSIONALLY

### Comply now ... Complain later

- Contact the officer's immediate supervisor
- If not satisfied:
  - ◆ Complete a formal complaint at the Lansing Police Department, Office of Internal Affairs, 120 West Michigan Avenue, 2nd Floor, TX: (517) 483-4804
  - ◆ Complete a formal complaint with the Civilian Commission Investigator, Human Relations and Community Services, (HRCS) 124 West Michigan Avenue, City Hall, 4th Floor TX: (517) 483-4002
- Challenge traffic tickets in Court, not on the road

## PLEASE REMEMBER

- Officers have a tough and dangerous job
- Their physical stance during contact with you may seem awkward, but officers are trained to position themselves in a way that enhances their safety – this is not intended to offend others
- Officers are trained to place a great deal of emphasis on their safety and survival
- Officers usually do not know you, we are learning about each other together
- Encounters with police should end with the citizen feeling that they were treated with respect; the officer should come away with the same feeling
- The same officer who gave you a ticket this morning will risk his or her life for you this afternoon

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Get to know your local police, stop in and say hello
- Join a police reserve officer program
- Join a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): [www.capitalareacert.org](http://www.capitalareacert.org)
- Become a police officer, jobs posted at:
  - ◆ [www.lansingmi.gov/jobs](http://www.lansingmi.gov/jobs)
  - ◆ [www.michigan.gov/mcoles](http://www.michigan.gov/mcoles)



Lansing Police Department  
120 West Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933  
TX: (517) 483-4600  
[www.lansingmi.gov/police](http://www.lansingmi.gov/police)



# "Police Contact" Information and Tips



## WHY DO POLICE STOP CITIZENS OR VEHICLES?

- Person appears to need assistance
- Traffic violation
- Person suspected of violating the law
- Person fits the description of a suspect
- Person has been pointed out as a suspect
- Person may have witnessed a crime
- Officer seeking information about a crime
- Officer is making a community contact

## IF APPROACHED OR STOPPED BY A POLICE OFFICER

- Keep your hands where the officer can see them and don't put them in your pockets
- Follow the officer's instructions
- Speak to the officer with the same level of respect that you expect from the officer
- Remain calm and do not escalate the situation
- Do not touch the officer as this could be interpreted as an aggression toward the officer's safety
- Do not run as this may imply that you think you are guilty of something and the officer will likely chase you
- Tell the officer if you have a weapon and do not reach for it
- If the officer has reason to believe that you are armed, then they have a right to pat you down for weapons to ensure everyone's safety
- The officer's questions are to clarify information and are not an accusation of wrongdoing
- Your answers should be factual to the best of your knowledge as lying to an officer about a serious crime may be illegal and have serious consequences
- The officer will probably conduct a warrant check and proper ID will speed up this process
- Your cooperation will greatly reduce the time the officer contacts you

## TRAFFIC STOP WHAT TO DO

- Slow down and pull to the right, or onto a side street
- If you feel unsafe or suspect it's not really the police, turn on your emergency flashers and continue slowly to a well-lit location like a gas station. If still unsure, dial 9-1-1 to get confirmation
- If stopped at night, turn on the dome light
- Spotlights and flashlights are used to illuminate the scene for everyone's safety, not to intimidate you
- Do not exit your vehicle, but wait for the officer
- Keeping your hands visible, such as on the steering wheel, is best
- If you have passengers, tell them to sit quietly with their hands visible
- Communicate your actions to the officer so that he/she knows what you are doing
- You must provide your driver's license, registration, and insurance, if requested by the officer
- If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them
- After supplying these documents is the time to ask why you were stopped if the officer has not already told you; you may certainly ask the officer for more information at this time
- If asked to exit your vehicle, follow the officer's instructions
- If issued a ticket, there is a legal process to challenge the ticket if you choose; debating the ticket on the roadside will not achieve results
- A ticket does not make you guilty of anything. You have a right to a hearing in Court and the ticket contains information on how to exercise that right
- Your car can be searched with your consent or if the officer has probable cause to believe that there is evidence of a crime in the car
- Be aware that officers are trained to be on high alert for their safety in traffic stop situations because so many officers have been harmed while on traffic stops
- Notify the officer if you have a CPL or a weapon in the vehicle

## POLICE AT YOUR HOME

- Usually if a police officer knocks on your door, it is for one of the these reasons:
  - ◆ To interview you or a member of your household as a witness or a suspect to an incident that is being investigated
  - ◆ To serve an arrest warrant
  - ◆ To serve a search warrant
  - ◆ To make a notification
- If they are not in uniform, make sure they really are law enforcement officers by requesting to see a badge and identification card
- Whenever police come to your door, they should willingly provide identification and state their purpose for being there
- Confirm that the officers are at the right house by asking, "How can I help you?" or "What brings you to my home?"
- An officer may enter a residence if:
  - ◆ The resident gives consent
  - ◆ The officer has an arrest or search warrant
  - ◆ There are emergency circumstances such as pursuit of a fleeing suspect or evidence may be lost if not immediately seized
  - ◆ Performing a community care-taker function such as first-aid or preventing harm to someone
  - ◆ In the case of a warrant, you may ask to see a copy of the warrant. However, if it is an arrest warrant, they are not required to have it with them to make an arrest

## SEARCHES BY POLICE

- If you give permission, an officer can search your person, vehicle or property
- You may be searched without your consent when:
  - ◆ Arrested
  - ◆ If a search warrant has been issued
  - ◆ If an officer has a reasonable belief that you have committed or will commit a crime
  - ◆ Frisk – An officer may pat you down for a weapon if the officer has reason to believe that you may be armed and dangerous