

“FLASHING LIGHTS”



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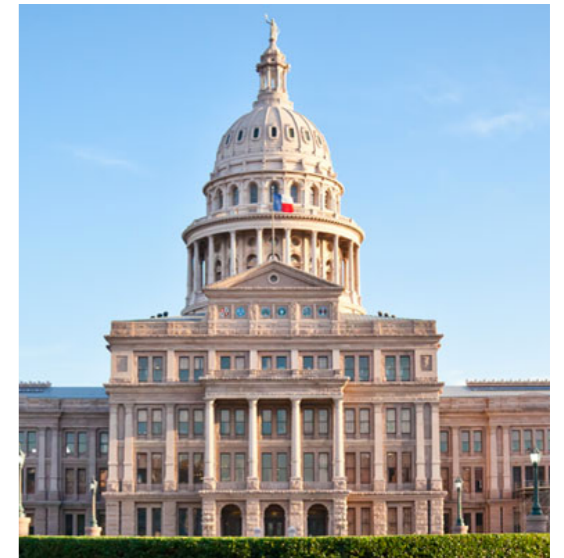


CREATING SAFE INTERACTION BETWEEN CITIZENS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

TEXAS COMMUNITY SAFETY EDUCATION ACT



PURPOSE AND GOAL



The Community Safety Education Act, 2017.

- Information for drivers, the public, students, and also training for members of law enforcement.
- Expectations that each should have during a contact between officers and motorists.
- Goal is to lessen tensions and anxieties that may arise during interactions between officers and citizens during traffic stops and other encounters that could lead to undesired outcomes.



EDUCATIONAL GOALS

- **Instructional Objective:**
Interact responsibly with law enforcement officers to provide a safe environment for both the public and law enforcement during a traffic stop and other in-person encounters.
- **Knowledge and Skills:**
To safely and responsibly show proper behavior and actions for civilians during interactions with law enforcement during traffic stops and other in-person encounters.



WHY?



To Keep You Safe.

To get you home safely.



REASONS FOR TRAFFIC STOP?

Traffic Violation



- Speeding
- Tailgating
- Weaving in Your Lane
- Improper Turn
- Unsafe Passing
- Unbuckled
- Cell Phone Use/Texting



REASONS FOR TRAFFIC STOP?

Vehicle Malfunction(s)

- Taillight Out
- Headlight Out
- Low Tire
- Brake Light Out

State Requirements

- Registration Expired
- License Plates Missing



REASONS FOR TRAFFIC STOP?



- You fit the description of a person who committed a crime.
- Vehicle fits the description of a vehicle used in a crime.
- Safe Driving.
- Your vehicle used in and/or you committed a crime.



REACTIONS TO BEING STOPPED?

Fearful

Nervous

Angry

Targeted

Inconvenienced

Frustrated

Surprised

Anxious

Edgy

Happy

Panicked

Amused



Traffic stops may be an emotional event for you, but it is not an emotional event for the officer.



THE LAW



- Driver to immediately stop when approached by an authorized emergency vehicle.
- Arrested if you do not stop.
- If you stop in an unsafe location, (bridge or a high traffic roadway), an officer may direct you over the **public address speaker** to move to a safer **location**.
- Follow the officer's directions.



PROPER ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES



- Slow down
- Park your vehicle to the right of the road and to the right main traffic lane:
 - Park on the right shoulder, if available,
 - On a nearby well-lighted side street,
 - Parking lot; or
 - Away from high-volume traffic, if shoulder unavailable.



PROPER ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES



- Place the vehicle in a parking position:
 - Set emergency brake;
 - Turn the engine off; and
 - Activate the hazard warning lights.
- If at night, turn on the interior dome light.



PROPER ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Remain in the car:
 - Lower the driver's window;
 - **Keep both hands clearly in sight on the top of the steering wheel;** and
 - Wait for law enforcement officer to give you instructions.
- An officer may approach from either side of the vehicle.



HANDS EMPTY

- You should have nothing in your hands, including a cell phone.
- Anything in your hands may appear to be a handgun to the officer.



PROPER BEHAVIORS

Drivers and passengers inside should **not** attempt to:



- Reach, dig, or search for their license or insurance documents before or while an officer is approaching.
- Tell the officer if you are transporting any type of weapon - keep both hands on top of the steering wheel.
- Drivers who transport handguns in their vehicles are encouraged to keep them in a separate location from license and insurance documentation.



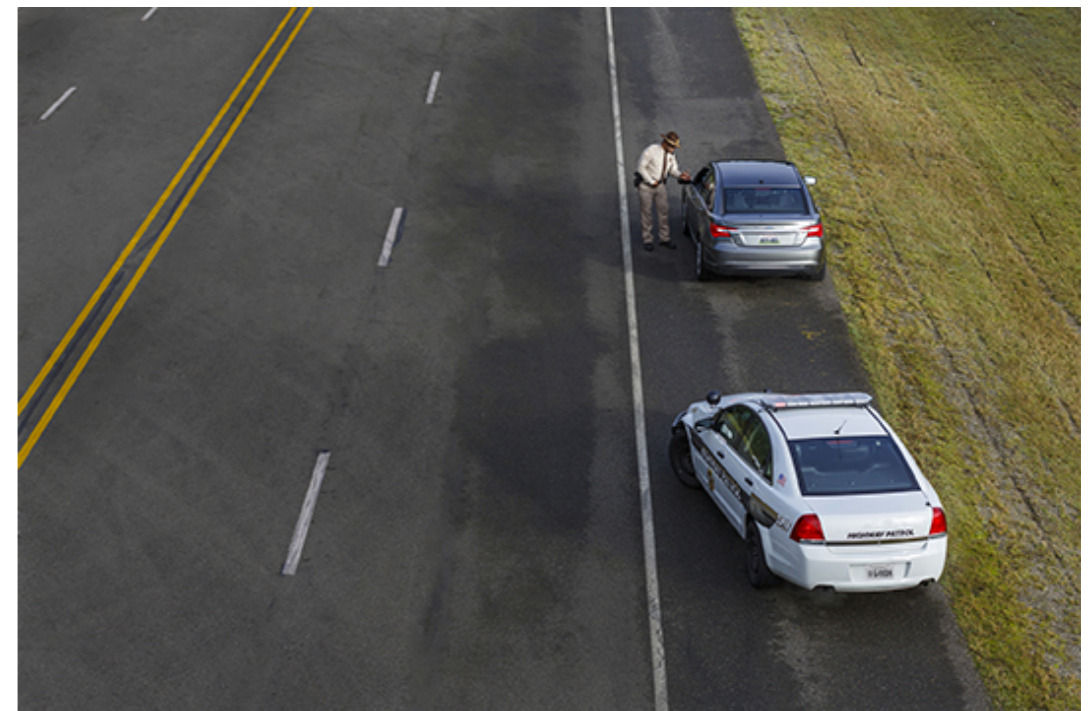
PROPER ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Before reaching into your glove box or under the seat to retrieve your proof of insurance or driver's license:
 - Inform the officer of where the items are located; and
 - Follow the officer's directions.
- If stopped for a violation, law enforcement may ask you to exit for any reason.
- If asked to exit the vehicle, check for passing vehicles to exit safely.



PROPER BEHAVIOR

- Law enforcement officers, drivers, and passengers should respond with **courtesy** during traffic stops and other officer/citizen interactions.
- Drivers and passengers should not exit the vehicle unless asked to do so.
 - Exiting your vehicle may be perceived as aggressive behavior; and
 - A threat to the officer's safety.



PROPER ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES



- Advise passengers to remain in the car unless other instructions are given by the law enforcement officer.
- Advise passengers to behave and be courteous to the officer.

At the conclusion of the traffic stop:

- When the officer releases you, the officer will wait for you to move your vehicle first;
- Give the appropriate signals; and
- Safely return to the proper lane of traffic when released by the law enforcement officer.



PROPER BEHAVIORS



- Refrain from **arguing** the charge during the traffic stop or detention.
- Signing a citation is not admitting **guilt**.
- If you wish to **contest** the charge, you should argue your case before:
 - A judge; or
 - Request a jury trial.



ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Provide assistance to Texas' citizens.
- Enforce the State's traffic laws.
- Ensure you make it home safely and law enforcement makes it home safely.



YOUR RIGHTS



- Right to remain silent, except for truthfully identifying themselves.
- Right to refuse to have vehicle searched.
- However, if an officer has reason to believe that vehicle contains evidence of a crime, the vehicle can be searched without consent.
- If an officer suspects a weapon, the officer may conduct a pat-down search.



SHOW DRIVER'S LICENSE

- Required to show driver's license.
- If you do not show driver's license, tell officer your:
 - Name;
 - Address; and
 - Date of birth.
- Commit an offense if you give a false or fictitious name.



FEEL UNSAFE



- If you feel the area is unsafe to stop immediately or if you have concerns the vehicle is not a real police vehicle, you can take the following steps to minimize the risk of being arrested or charges being filed against you:
 - Turn on your hazard lights and drive slowly and carefully below the posted speed limit;
 - You may drive to a nearby well-lighted, populated place to stop.



EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION



- Offense - intentionally fleeing from a law enforcement officer:
- Subject to higher penalties if using vehicle or watercraft to flee or evade arrest; and
- Subject to higher penalties if you cause injury to another person.



TO FILE COMPLAINT OR COMPLIMENT

- To file a complaint or compliment, you may follow agency guidelines for submitting complaints or compliments.
- Information you need to file is on the citation (ticket).

Issue Record # _____ Incident # _____

SWORN AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS DATE: _____
 COUNTY OF HARRIS TIME: _____

Before me, the undersigned authority, appeared _____
(Print Affiant's Name)
 who after being duly sworn on his/her oath deposes and says:

My full name is: _____. I am ____ years of age, and my date of birth is: _____. I currently reside at: _____, in (city): _____, (state) _____, Zip Code: _____. My home telephone number is: _____, and my work number is _____. I can also be contacted at (other number, pager, cell, etc...) _____. My driver's license or official identification number is: _____, and my Social Security Number is: _____.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT UNDER TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 143.123 THAT:

"AN INVESTIGATOR MAY NOT CONDUCT AN INTERROGATION OF A FIREFIGHTER OR POLICE OFFICER BASED UPON A COMPLAINT BY A COMPLAINANT (PERSON) WHO IS NOT A PEACE OFFICER UNLESS THE COMPLAINANT (PERSON) VERIFIES THE COMPLAINT IN WRITING BEFORE A PUBLIC OFFICER WHO IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO TAKE STATEMENTS UNDER OATH."

In order to conduct a complete and thorough investigation of your complaint, we need you to answer the following questions. Please be as specific as possible.

1. Date of Incident: _____ Time of Incident: _____
2. Location of the incident (address): _____
3. Number of Houston Police Officers/Employees involved: _____

List any names, badge numbers, vehicle numbers and/or license plate numbers, And/or provide physical descriptions of the officer(s) involved:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____



CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)
- Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
- Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- Austin Police Department
- Dallas Police Department
- Houston Police Department
- Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS)
- Travis County Constable Precinct 1
- Williamson County Sheriff's Office
- Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA)
- Austin Community College, Criminal Justice Department and C.J. Club
- Teen and Police Services Academy (TAPS), Everette B. Penn, Ph.D., Director
- Project Unity
- SafeWay Driving
- Sheriff's Association of Texas (SAT)
- Foundation for Safe Driving, Inc



RESOURCES

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Image Library



- SafeWay Driving Systems, Inc.



- Austin Community College, Criminal Justice Department and C.J. Club
- Teen and Police Services Academy (TAPS), Everette B. Penn, Ph.D., Director
- The Foundation for Safe Driving, Inc.
- Texas Driver Handbook, Texas Department of Public Safety

