

How to Interact with **Law Enforcement**

The first words spoken by either an Officer or Citizen often determines the tone of the encounter and possible outcome. Your basic rights and responsibilities may not always be clearly defined by law enforcement officials.

If you are stopped or detained, politely ask the officer 'why' in a manner that is not confrontational. **What is the easiest way to avoid conflict with the law? Stay out of trouble.**

If You are Stopped on the Street:

- Answer all questions pertaining to your identity
- Remember, you are not required to give testimony, you have a right to remain silent
- Do not 'bad mouth' or walk away from law enforcement officials
- If an officer has a 'reasonable suspicion' that you may be carrying a weapon or illegal substance, you may be subjected to a 'pat-down' search. Do not resist the search

If You are Stopped in a Car:

- Slow down, safely pull over as soon as you can
- Stay in the driver's seat with both hands in sight on the steering wheel
- Do not exit the car unless asked to do so
- Comply with the officer's request to see your driver's license and registration
- If the officer believes a crime has been committed, your car can be searched without a court-issued warrant



Officer Conduct & *Your Response*

The best way to avoid conflict is to not provoke the officer while having a discussion about law enforcement matters.

Guidelines:

- Do not resist arrest for any reason
- Control your emotions
- Do not make threatening motions or statements to officers
- Never attempt to interfere with the arrest of others who may be with you
- Always note the name of officers with whom you come into contact
- Record, document and report officer misconduct immediately

Have a Complaint?

You may file a complaint by calling Jacksonville Public Safety at 910 455-4000 or in person at the Public Safety Complex, 200 Marine Blvd, Jacksonville, NC.

Important Numbers: **Emergency Dial 9-1-1**

Jacksonville Police

910 455-4000

Jacksonville Fire & Emergency Services

910 455-8080

Crime Stoppers

910 938-3273

Onslow County Sheriff's Department

910 455-3113



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