

## IF YOU ARE STOPPED IN A CAR

### RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The police can ask you to pull over when they observe you committing any traffic offense; this includes moving violations \*e.g. failure to signal+ and equipment violations \*e.g. taillight out).
2. Stop the vehicle safely out of traffic, immediately place it in Park, apply parking brake, turn off the vehicle. Keep your hands visible.
3. Show your driver's license, vehicle registration, and insurance upon request.
4. During a traffic stop, the police can search the passenger compartment of your car if they have probable cause to believe that there may be a weapon.
5. If you are arrested during a traffic stop, the police can search the inside of the car if they have probable cause to believe that evidence for which the person is being arrested will be found in the passenger compartment.
6. If you are given a ticket, you should sign it. Your signature proves only that you received the ticket. It is not an admission of guilt.
7. If you are suspected of drunken driving and refuse to take a blood, urine or a breath test, your driver's license will be suspended and you will be arrested.

### REALITY

1. If the police are trying to stop you, pull over right away. If possible, try to pull over in a well-lit area or where there are people.
2. Stay in the car until an officer tells you what to do.
3. If it is dark outside, turn on the car's inside light.
4. Keep your hands on the steering wheel where the officer can see them until you are told what to do.
5. Be sure to have all your paperwork current, in order and readily available. This includes: driver's license; vehicle registration and the little sticker on the license plate; insurance card; auto safety and emissions inspection stickers. Having this information can save you lots of money in fines and costs and may prevent the towing of your car.
6. If the officer searches your car even though you object, don't interfere.
7. If you are given a ticket, don't argue about it. You can always fight the case in traffic court later.