



# Dos & Don'ts When Getting Pulled Over or Arrested

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Law enforcement officers in local communities have an intimate relationship with the individuals they swore to protect and serve. They are usually native to the communities they serve and are active members of their community when they are off duty.

Local law enforcement agencies are presumed to have their communities' best interest in mind, and they usually play the most important role in the wellness and safety of their community members. With that said, it is generally understood there are times when the criminal justice system provides no justice to individuals it is supposed protect.



## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- **Tips on preserving your constitutional rights**
- **Ways to limit injustice and negligent/malicious prosecutions**



It would be fallacious to place all the blame for injustices on local law enforcement agencies. They are often underpaid, overworked, and oftentimes underappreciated. This can cause a multitude of issues that can, and often do, have a negative impact on the streets they patrol. Without more training and education for both officers and community members on proper policing, there will continue to be injustice plaguing any good-faith efforts to improve the criminal justice system. Until there is a better system in place, it is best to understand the many different ways you can protect yourself from these injustices.

Below you will find a brief list of Dos and Don'ts when engaging with law enforcement. These tips can have a major impact on any criminal matter you might find yourself in.

# The Dos & Don'ts



## THE DOs:

- Keep your hands and arms visible at all times.
- Always ask WHY you are being detained or arrested.
- Ask to speak with a LAWYER as soon as you have reason to believe you will be detained or arrested. Police CANNOT interrogate you further once you request a lawyer.
- Be aware that anything you say or do may be recorded by a body camera or patrol car dashcam.
- If possible, record conversations and conduct from the time you are pulled over to when you are free to leave or when you are arrested.
- Be present at all required court dates. Your lawyer should tell when you need to be in court.

## THE DON'Ts:

- Don't become combative or physically resist an officer. This can create a dangerous situation.
- Don't try to explain yourself because anything you say can be used against you, including "I didn't do it." Let your LAWYER speak for you.
- Don't hide any evidence or mislead an officer with false testimony. It will hurt your case!
- Don't make any written or oral statements to law enforcement without your LAWYER present.
- Don't authorize officers search you or your vehicle without reasonable suspicion that you have committed a crime (i.e., breath smells like alcohol, or car smells like marijuana).



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