

1. Put on your right turn signal so the officer knows you are cooperating, and find a safe spot well away from traffic to stop.
2. Roll down your window, but otherwise keep your hands on top of the steering wheel where the officer can see them.
3. Consider politely asking why you were pulled over.

### Are signaled to pull over for a traffic violation

The most important legal advice for drivers is to obey all traffic rules and drive attentively and safely. If a police car is following you, this advice becomes doubly important. If you ...

## If you are pulled over or have an accident...

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4. Provide your registration, license, and proof of insurance as requested.
5. You must exit the car if the officer asks you to do so.
6. If the officer has reasonable suspicion that you have engaged in criminal activity, the officer may conduct a pat-down search of your person, search your car's passenger compartment, and frisk any bags or other objects within the passenger compartment for weapons.
7. The officer may not otherwise search you or the car without your permission, unless something illegal like drugs is in the officer's plain view.

### Are stopped for suspicion of drunk driving

In addition to the traffic-stop advice listed above, you should understand that:

1. You need not answer the officer's questions, but try to respond if you can do so without making statements that can be used against you.
2. Field sobriety tests are voluntary. You need not perform them.
3. Your traffic stop and any field sobriety tests you take are probably being videotaped, and any negative comments, actions, or results will likely be used against you.
4. If you regurgitate or burp in the 15 minutes prior to your breath test, ask for another 15-minute waiting period to avoid a falsely-high reading.
5. Breath tests are less accurate than blood tests, and more vulnerable to attack at trial.

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These are general guidelines. Situations can arise that make them inapplicable, so use your own judgment if these suggestions seem inappropriate for your circumstances. If you are ever arrested for drunk driving, we are available to help. In the meantime, over 70 articles and several videos on the drunk-driving legal process are available at our website. If you need an experienced local personal injury lawyer, we can provide recommendations.

### Encounter a police roadblock

1. You may avoid a roadblock if you have a safe and legal way to turn around. Do not make an abrupt, unsafe, or illegal maneuver, or the roadblock's chase car will pull you over.
2. The police cannot single out your car unless they have good reason to believe that you have broken the law.

### Are involved in a minor accident

1. Exchange contact, license, and insurance information with the other driver.
2. Make notes about what happened, including what the other driver and any witnesses said at the scene.
3. If you are injured, keep a daily diary of the effects of your injuries.

### Are in a serious accident

In addition to the minor-accident advice listed above, it is essential that:

1. Vehicle damage be properly photographed before the damage is repaired.
2. Third-party witnesses be interviewed while their memories are fresh.
3. The accident scene be photographed before it is altered.
4. Torn and blood-stained garments be saved.
5. Bruised and broken bodies be photographed before healing.
6. Facts or fault not be discussed with anyone but your attorney.