

Each situation is unique and the Deputy must alter his/her response to fit the circumstance.

GENERALLY, a Deputy Sheriff:

- Will provide his or her name upon request.
- A Deputy Sheriff who is not in uniform will present proper identification; you may request to examine their credentials so that you are satisfied they are a law enforcement officer.
- Will inform a person of the reason for being stopped.
- Will only use the amount of force necessary to effect the arrest of a suspect and to maintain the custody of the prisoner.
- Will only arrest a person for a crime committed in the Deputy's presence, when accepting a citizen's arrest, or when the officer has probable cause to believe a person has already committed a serious crime.

Questions/Compliments/Complaints

If you have a question about procedures or a complaint about your treatment, contact the Sacramento Sheriff's Department and ask to speak with a supervisor. You may also send a letter of appreciation if you feel the officer was particularly helpful in your situation.



Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

John McGinness
Sheriff

711 G Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 911
Non-Emergency (916) 874-5115
From Citrus Heights (916) 486-1114
D
Internal Affairs (916) 874-5098
Crime Alert Hotline (916) 443-HELP



SHERIFF
Sacramento County

Sacramento County Sheriff's Department



John McGinness
Sheriff

What To Do If You Are Stopped By a Deputy Sheriff

www.sacsheriff.com

Why Do Deputy Sheriffs Stop People?

There are a variety of different reasons why you might be stopped by a Deputy Sheriff in Sacramento County. Reasons might include:

- The Deputy may think you are in trouble and need help.
- You may have violated the rules of the road.
- Your vehicle might have a safety violation.
- You may fit the description of a wanted suspect.
- You may have been the witness of a crime.

California Vehicle Code Section 21806.

“...Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to the right-hand edge or curb of the highway, clear of any intersection, and thereupon stop and remain stopped until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.”

With this in mind, there are things that you, as a law abiding citizen can do to help make the experience a more efficient, positive, and safe experience for both you and the Police Officer.

If you are stopped

If you are stopped by a Deputy Sheriff while driving, you may feel confused, anxious, or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can also be stressful and dangerous for the Deputy Sheriff. Each year, a number of law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured while making the “routine” traffic stop.

If stopped by a Deputy Sheriff, please remember:

1. When you see the red overhead lights and/or hear the siren, remain calm and pull safely over parallel to the right side of the road.
2. Remain in your vehicle unless the Deputy advises otherwise. Be sure the officer is wearing a police uniform. If not, keep your door locked and ask for credentials.
3. Try to keep your hands where the Deputy can see them. It’s a good idea to rest both hands on the steering wheel.
4. Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floorboard, rear seat, or passenger side of the vehicle. The Deputy might think you are reaching for a weapon or concealing some other object.
5. Do not immediately reach for your license or other documents until the Deputy requests them. California Law requires drivers to show their license, registration and insurance card to a peace officer upon request.
6. If your documents are out of reach, tell the Deputy where they are before you reach for them.
7. If the stop occurs during darkness, the Deputy will likely use a bright spotlight to illuminate your vehicle. You can help by turning on your interior lights so the Deputy can see that everything is in order.
8. If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet and cooperate with instructions. As the operator, you are solely responsible for your vehicle and its occupants.
9. The Deputy may issue you a ticket. If you feel the reason is vague or unclear, ask the Deputy for details.
10. If you contest the violation, you will have an opportunity to address the matter in court, do not argue with the Deputy.
11. Be honest with the Deputy. If you really didn’t see the stop sign, or were unaware of the speed limit, let the Deputy know. Being honest about any situation is the best approach.
12. Many Departments use single-officer patrol cars, especially in the suburbs. It is normal to see two or three marked patrol cars on a routine traffic stop, especially at night. This is to ensure the Deputy’s safety.
13. Finally, if you receive a ticket, please accept it calmly. Signing it is not an admission of guilt, it’s only a promise to appear in court at a later time. State law mandates that if you refuse to sign the citation, you will be arrested.

