

Traffic Driver Behavior

How should a driver behave when stopped by an officer? Drivers should keep their hands on the steering wheel. Any movement in the car may put the officer on the defensive for safety reasons. The driver will be given time to find their license, insurance card and registration paperwork. Let the officer know if there is a weapon in the vehicle. The officers do try to balance officer safety with community service. Be patient, officers will tell the driver why the stop is taking place. Follow their directions. This will help speed up the process.

When I am traveling on the freeway and find myself being pulled over which side do I pull to?

Per state law the driver is to pull to the right hand side and stop. However, if the driver is in the number one lane, closest to the median and there is a storage lane (shoulder), pull to the left. It is safer for all. (See NRS 484B.267)

What do I do if I get pulled over but there is no shoulder? It is stated in the law that the driver must pull over and stop immediately. The driver should signal that they are following the officer's direction. They should pull over as far to the right as possible. The officer will instruct the driver to move to a different location if they deem the current location hazardous. (See NRS 484B.440)

What do I do if I get pulled over and I am not sure that it is really an authorized officer pulling me over?

The law states that the driver must yield to an emergency vehicle, however if a driver doesn't feel safe, it is okay to go a couple of hundred feet to a lighted public area before stopping. The driver should still signal the officer their intent to comply with the stop by turning on their right turn signal. When one is being pulled over by an unmarked vehicle, and there is doubt as to whether it is an official police vehicle, try to find the nearest lit public area and stop. The driver should keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up until proper I.D. is shown and then be prepared to explain their concerns and actions to the officer. The driver may also call the police dispatcher at 311 to confirm that they are actually being pulled over by an authorized officer. If no I.D. is shown then the driver should immediately start honking their horn to draw attention to the situation. (See NRS 484B.100)

When someone is stopped by the police for a traffic issue, is it necessary to give one's social security number?

An officer will ask the driver for their driver's license, proof of insurance, and registration information. These are required. The officer may also ask their date of birth and social security number, however this information is not required. The driver may respectfully decline to provide these two pieces of information. (See NRS 484B.550)