Dear Friend,

Police officers across New York State initiate millions of traffic stops every year. As a former State Trooper and the former Sheriff of Erie County, I understand the natural apprehension many drivers have when pulled over. Traffic stops can be uncomfortable and may lead to unnecessary confrontation and anxiety. This guide is intended to alleviate that anxiety in an effort to keep these interactions civil, respectful, and safe for all involved.

This guide was created in collaboration with police officers, attorneys, State legislators, and officials in the Department of Motor Vehicles. We intend to outline the rights and responsibilities of drivers and offer the best practices and procedures to follow for a streamlined, safer traffic stop. Drivers, police officers, and taxpayers all benefit from everyone being more informed.

I hope you will find this guide helpful as a reference for future traffic stops. As always, please drive responsibly.

If you have any questions or want additional guides, please visit my website or contact my office.

Sincerely,

Senator Patrick M. Gallivan 60th Senate District





IEW YORK STATE SENATE

Senator Patrick M. Gallivan

60th SENATE DISTRICT

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Senatorgallivan



NEW

Important Traffic Law Reminder

MOVE OVER LAW

According to current State law, drivers are required to exercise extreme caution when encountering **ANY vehicle** stopped on the shoulder of the road. Drivers must **slow down** when approaching said vehicles and must **move out of the lane adjacent to the stopped vehicle.**

Failure to move over is illegal and endangers our New York drivers.

Help keep New York safe and move over.



Suggestions for WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE



key information for both

NEW & EXPERIENCED
DRIVERS

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STAY CALM

You have been pulled over by the police. Stay calm.

- Immediately pull over to the shoulder of the road, put your car in park, and turn off your vehicle
- Roll down your windows and turn off your radio. If it is dark outside, turn on your interior lights.
- Avoid unnecessary movements. Police officers become concerned if they see suspicious movement.
- Place your hands in clear sight on the steering wheel, remain in the vehicle, and wait to be approached. Do not attempt to take preemptive action, and do not reach for your license or other documents until asked.

Passengers in the vehicle should remain quiet and courteous, employing the same advice if applicable

COOPERATE

Slow, steady, narrated movements can prevent misunderstandings.

- Follow the officer's requests and do not reach for unsolicited items.
- Do not argue. Ask for clarification and explain the circumstances.
- If you receive a ticket, accept it calmly.
- circumstances where an officer may legally conduct a search or pat down without your consent You do not have to voluntarily consent to a search of yourself or your vehicle. However, there are
- The place to challenge an officer's assessment and actions is in court, not the side of the road

COMMUNICATE

Be polite. Civility will streamline the stop and mitigate apprehension.

- When responding to the officer's requests, move slowly and narrate your actions.
- Inform the officer if you are carrying a concealed weapon.
- The officer is likely to ask for your driver license, registration, and proof of insurance
- Answer questions honestly and in a respectful tone.
- You can expect the officer to inform you of the reason for the traffic stop
- You can request the officer's name and badge number. Do so respectfully.
- You can record your traffic stop, but do not interfere with the officer conducting the stop.

Key Documents

insurance. Make sure you know what each document looks like and where each is located in your car. During a routine traffic stop, an officer is likely to request a driver license, vehicle registration, and proof of



Driver License

Vehicle Registration

Proof of Insurance (may be electronic)