

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR YOU



mdsp.maryland.gov

Protecting Preventing Providing

"Purposed Policing"

410-653-4200

or

(TTY) 711

Case/Incident # _____

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor

Colonel Roland L. Butler, Jr.
Superintendent

MSP 225 (07-23)

PROFESSIONAL TRAFFIC STOPS

- All people having contact with members of the MSP will be treated in a fair and equitable manner. Being stopped for a traffic violation can be a stressful time for you and the police officer. Maryland State Troopers are expected to maintain professionalism and courtesy during every traffic stop.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US DURING A TRAFFIC STOP

- A greeting with the name of the trooper and the reason why you were stopped;
- A uniformed trooper or the presentation of a badge and/or identification card;
- A polite, respectful tone from the trooper;
- Answers to reasonable questions;
- Prompt action in completing the citation/warning and traffic checks;

- An explanation of the citation/warning;
- Probable cause that a crime is being committed permits the trooper to search your vehicle without your consent;
- A trooper may ask for consent to search your vehicle. If consent is requested, you may be asked to give consent in writing on a form provided by the trooper. You have the right to refuse a request for consent to search your vehicle.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU DURING A TRAFFIC STOP

Traffic stops are never routine. History has shown traffic stops to be fatal for officers every year. Each day, troopers encounter impaired drivers, illegal firearms, drugs, fugitives and drivers with suspended licenses. This is why troopers are trained to place a great deal of emphasis on their safety and take a defensive posture until the risk of confrontation or injury is diminished. With this in mind, we ask that you:

- Carry proper identification and paperwork including a valid driver's license, vehicle registration card and proof of insurance.
- When signaled by the trooper to stop, look for the nearest, safest place to position your vehicle that is as far out of the traffic lane as possible. Never stop in a traffic lane.
- Stay in your vehicle. If asked to exit, do so slowly.
- Remain calm. Ask passengers to remain quiet and cooperative.
- Keep your seatbelt fastened until the trooper has seen you wearing it.
- Keep your hands in view, preferably on the steering wheel.
- Avoid sudden movements which may cause unnecessary alarm to the officer or that may imply the existence of weapons or other illegal activity.
- Turn off your engine and stereo; roll down your window so the trooper can speak with you.
- Don't be surprised if another patrol car appears. This helps ensure the trooper's safety.
- Treat the trooper the way you would like to be treated.



If you prefer to make a comment or complaint online, scan the QR code to the left.

If you would like to take the MSP Citizen Survey, scan the QR code to the right.



MARYLAND STATE POLICE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION 1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, PIKEVILLE, MD 21208

IF YOU HAVE FILLED OUT THE REVERSE SIDE:

DETACH THIS CARD—PLACE IN ENVELOPE—APPLY POSTAGE—MAIL TO ADDRESS ABOVE

DO NOT MAIL TRAFFIC CITATION FINES WITH THIS CARD—FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CITATION

For more information visit mdsp.maryland.gov or follow us on

Facebook (www.facebook.com/MarylandStatePolice)

Instagram ([@marylandstatepolice](https://www.instagram.com/marylandstatepolice))

YouTube (www.youtube.com/MarylandStatePolice)

Twitter @MDSP

COMMENT FORM

DO NOT USE THIS FORM TO MAIL TRAFFIC CITATION FINES

Please provide the following information if you wish to commend or express your concerns about the actions of a Maryland State Trooper or call 410-653-4200 or (TTY) 711.

YOUR NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIPCODE: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER/EMAIL: _____

DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER: _____

TROOPER'S NAME & ID: _____

DESCRIBE ENCOUNTER: _____

MSP 225 (07-23) DETACH THIS CARD - PLACE IN ENVELOPE - APPLY POSTAGE - MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE

Maryland State Police and civilian support personnel are involved in criminal and traffic enforcement efforts in every Maryland county and Baltimore City. Our Department fulfills an important role in law enforcement service. As a state police department, we work to coordinate efforts between federal and local law enforcement. Our focus is on statewide initiatives that reduce traffic crashes, drunk driving, aggressive driving, unsafe vehicles, and other threats to highway safety. Our criminal enforcement emphasis is on cross-border and inter-jurisdictional crime that involves illegal drug importation and distribution, apprehending fugitives, and reducing violent crime.

We take seriously our obligation to provide quality public safety services. Each employee is to uphold our core values of integrity, fairness, and service, while treating each person they encounter with respect and according to the rights afforded under the U.S. Constitution, the laws of Maryland and the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Police. Please know that whatever the reason for your contact with a Maryland State Trooper, their actions were motivated by a sincere desire to protect and serve the public, while upholding the highest standards of the police profession.

Whether you live here, are visiting, or are just traveling through our State, you can be assured that members of the Maryland State Police are on the job protecting, preventing, and providing. They are committed to protecting you and your family, preventing criminal acts and traffic crashes, and providing the highest quality of law enforcement services available anywhere.

Colonel Roland L. Butler, Jr., Superintendent

MARYLAND'S CHILD AMBER ALERT

If police confirm a child abduction in Maryland, believe the child is in serious danger and there is descriptive information about a suspect and/or vehicle, the AMBER Alert will be activated. Lookouts will be broadcasted on radio and television. Highway message signs will read "Child Amber Alert" and give a description of the suspect vehicle. If you see that vehicle, please dial 9-1-1.

For state/local police emergencies dial 9-1-1

TARGETING TERRORISM AND CRIME 1-800-492-TIPS (8477)

The Maryland State Police is committed to working with federal and local law enforcement to prevent the threat of terrorism and reduce violent crime in our State. You can also have a vital role in our efforts to keep the State safe.

The Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, a joint law enforcement operation, maintains an around-the-clock tips line for people to call with information about suspicious persons or circumstances that may be related to terrorism or other criminal activity. All information is taken seriously and will be investigated.

Do not ignore your feelings of uneasiness about a person or circumstances you may encounter. If you observe someone or something unusual or suspicious, take the time to contact police and have the situation checked out. Call 1-800-492-TIPS (8477)

If a Maryland State Trooper seizes money or a vehicle from you, the Maryland Department of State Police Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) can provide you with information on the process for attempting to reclaim the money or vehicle. The AFU can be reached by email at msp.afu@maryland.gov, or by telephone at 410-694-4700.

For non-emergencies on Maryland's interstate safely dial #77 on your cellular phone