
The Albion Department of Public Safety developed this brochure to help you understand why you might be stopped by an officer and how you can expect to be treated. It is important to understand what to expect when an officer stops you on the street or when you are driving a vehicle.



Why Might I Be Stopped By the Public safety?

The officer may have reason to suspect that you are in violation of a traffic or criminal law. It may be that a crime was committed nearby or the officer believes you might be able to assist in the investigation.

What To Do If Stopped On The Street?

We recommend that you do not run from the officer. Be calm. Listen to what the officer wants. Do not assume that you know the reason you were stopped. Provide identification when you are asked. Be as cooperative as possible. When asked questions, answer truthfully. Being untruthful will only make matters worse and you may end up causing further problems for yourself. You have the right to ask questions of the officer. But this should be done in a calm manner. Yelling and threatening an officer will only make a situation more difficult.

What to Do If Stopped In My Vehicle?

If you are driving a vehicle and an officer signals to stop, you must pull over. The law requires this.

We recommend that you stay in your vehicle and if it is dark, turn on the interior light. Please do not exit your vehicle unless the officer requests or directs you to do so.

It is suggested that you keep your hands on the steering wheel and wait for the officer to approach your vehicle. The officer will request your license, registration and proof of insurance. Public safety officers are trained to ask for identification and to provide an explanation for the stop. Please provide the officer with the requested documents. An ADPS officer will always inform you of the reason for the stop.

Traffic violations are the most common reason for public safety stopping a vehicle. Examples of traffic violations include speeding, disregarding a traffic control device, improper or expired license plate or equipment violations. A criminal investigation may be another reason for being stopped. Your vehicle may match the description of a vehicle that has been involved in a crime.

At some point during the stop, the officer may ask you and/or passengers to exit the vehicle. This request may be for safety or investigatory reasons. The courts have upheld an officer's right to make such a request. Please Comply with this request.

Public safety officer actions during a traffic stop are guided by the fact that many public safety officers are assaulted and killed each year during traffic stops. Our goal is to protect you and to ensure officer safety.

If you are issued a citation and you disagree, please do not argue at the scene. You have the right to contest a citation before a judge or magistrate at a later time.



I'd Like To Speak With Someone Regarding The Officer's Actions. What Should I Do?

Your comments are very important to us. If you would like to compliment or complain about an officer's actions, please contact:

A Patrol Sergeant or Lt. Gerald MacQueen
at (517) 629-3933

Chief Eric D. Miller
Albion Dept of Public Safety
112 West Cass Street
Albion, MI 49224
(517) 629-9291

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why does the officer ask for identification?

A. The officer is trained to ask for identification. You know you are dealing with a public safety officer. The officer merely wishes to know with whom he/she is dealing.

Q. When a vehicle is stopped at night, the officers shine their lights into the vehicle. Why is that?

A. Officers are trained to minimize their exposure to potential danger from within the stopped vehicle. At night, the bright light illuminates the interior of the vehicle; a safety consideration for the officer.

Q. If I've only been pulled over for a traffic offense, why do other public safety cars show up?

A. It is not uncommon for officers who are in close proximity to assist one another, even if they are not requested. This is a routine response for safety reasons.

Q. Why does the officer sit in the car for so long? What are they doing?

A. Technology allows an officer to determine your driving status and check your registration directly from the patrol car. However, there are times when the responses are delayed through no fault of the officer.

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**ALBION DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**Albion Department of
Public Safety
Informational Brochure**

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Albion Department of
Public Safety Public Safety Officers**



**A Guide For the
Greater Albion
Community**