
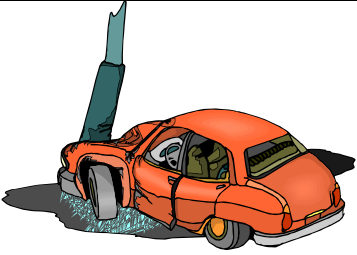



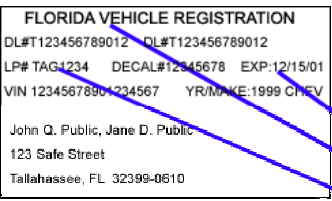




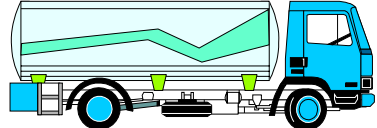
Traffic Stops and Accidents



Vocabulary

		
<p>a Florida State Trooper and his police dog</p>	<p>an accident <i>accidents</i></p>	<p>a police helicopter <i>police helicopters</i></p>

		 <p>FLORIDA VEHICLE REGISTRATION DL#T123456789012 OL#T123456789012 LP# TAG1234 DECAL#12345678 EXP:12/15/01 VIN 12345678901234567 YR/MAKE:1999 CHEV John Q. Public, Jane D. Public 123 Safe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0610 Not actual size</p> <p>Expiration Date Registration Type License Plate Number</p>
<p>a driver's license <i>driver's licenses</i></p>	<p>a license plate <i>license plates</i></p>	<p>a registration card <i>registration cards</i></p>

		
<p>a pickup <i>pickups</i></p>	<p>an SUV (sports utility vehicle) <i>SUVs</i></p>	<p>a truck <i>trucks</i></p>

		
<p>a ticket, a citation <i>tickets, citations</i></p>	<p>a tag for a car <i>tags</i></p>	<p>a steering wheel <i>steering wheels</i></p>

Pull Over for All Police Lights and Sirens

The police use many different types of cars. Most of their cars say SHERIFF or STATE TROOPER or POLICE. But some, like the black car in this picture, are unmarked. They may not look like police cars, but they are. All police cars have lights and sirens.

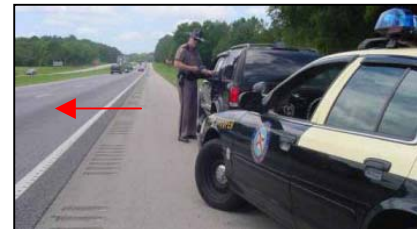


When you are driving and hear a siren or see emergency vehicle lights, you must:

1. Slow down
2. Get out of the intersection
3. Pull to the side of the road (move to the right) and STOP
4. Wait for the police, ambulance, or fire truck to pass you or stop

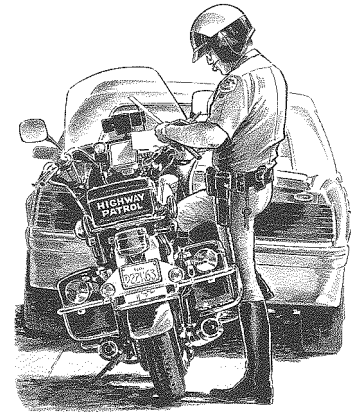
When you are driving and see a police car or other emergency vehicle by the side of the road with its emergency lights flashing:

1. Slow down
2. Move over one lane away from the police car (move to the left)
3. Wait until you are completely by the police car before speeding up again



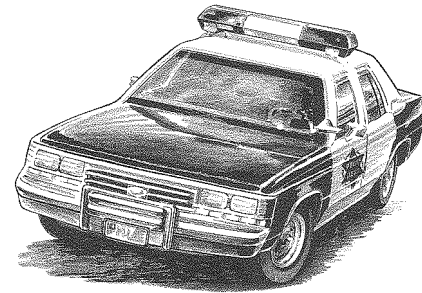
What to Do When the Police Stop You

If you are driving and hear a siren or see lights behind you, pull to the side of the road. If the police are after you, they will also pull to the side of the road. They will park their motorcycle or car behind your car.



Always do these five things if the police stop your car:

1. Pull as far to the right of the road as you can.
2. Put your car in PARK.
3. Roll down the window and turn off the engine.
4. Put both hands on the steering wheel (so the officer can see that you don't have a gun).
5. Stay in the car. Wait for the officer to come to you.



The officer will ask you for three things:

1. Your driver's license
2. Your vehicle registration card
3. Your proof of insurance card

The officer will take your license and cards back to his vehicle. He will call in your name, driver's license number and license plate number. This is to be sure you are not a criminal or have some other legal problem. **WAIT** until the officer returns. Do not drive off.

The police officer will ask you some questions. Tell the truth. Be polite.

Police stop cars for many reasons. Maybe your lights aren't working. Maybe you were going too fast. Maybe they are looking for drunk drivers. The police will tell you why they stopped you. The police will tell you when it is OK to go.

Traffic Tickets (Also Called Traffic Citations)

In Florida, all police use the same traffic ticket. The ticket tells where, when, and why you were stopped. It also tells who stopped you and what you must do about the ticket. The ticket looks something like this (not actual size, not complete):

FLORIDA UNIFORM TRAFFIC CITATION									
COUNTY OF _____					<input type="checkbox"/> (1) F.H.P. <input type="checkbox"/> (2) P.D. <input type="checkbox"/> (3) S.O. <input type="checkbox"/> (4) OTHER				
CITY (IF APPLICABLE) _____					AGENCY _____				
IN THE COURT DESIGNATED BELOW THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT HE/SHE HAS JUST AND REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE AND DOES BELIEVE THAT ON									
DAY OF WEEK _____			MONTH _____		DAY _____		YEAR _____		<input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.
NAME (PRINT) FIRST _____			MIDDLE _____			LAST _____			
STREET _____ IF DIFFERENT THAN ONE ON DRIVER LICENSE "X" HERE									
CITY _____					STATE _____		ZIP CODE _____		
TELEPHONE NUMBER _____			DATE OF BIRTH	MO _____	DAY _____	YR _____	RACE _____	SEX _____	HGT _____
DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER _____	STATE _____	CLASS _____	COL LICENSE Y _____ N _____	YR LICENSE EXP. _____		IF COMMERCIAL MTR. VEH. "X" HERE <input type="checkbox"/>			
YR. VEHICLE _____		MAKE _____		STYLE _____		COLOR _____		IF PLACARDED HAZARDOUS MATERIAL "X" HERE <input type="checkbox"/>	
VEHICLE LICENSE NO. _____			TRAILER TAG NO. _____		STATE _____	YEAR TAG EXPIRES _____		IF COMPANION CITATION(S) "X" HERE <input type="checkbox"/>	
UPON A PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY, OR OTHER LOCATION, NAMELY _____									
DID UNLAWFULLY COMMIT THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE. CHECK ONLY ONE OFFENSE EACH CITATION.									
<input type="checkbox"/> UNLAWFUL SPEED _____ MPH SPEED APPLICABLE _____ MPH (<input type="checkbox"/> INTERSTATE <input type="checkbox"/> 4-LANE HWY WITH 20 FT. MEDIAN OUTSIDE BUS. OR RES. DIST.)									
<input type="checkbox"/> CARELESS DRIVING			<input type="checkbox"/> SAFETY BELT VIOLATION			<input type="checkbox"/> EXPIRED DRIVER LICENSE			
<input type="checkbox"/> VIOLATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE			<input type="checkbox"/> IMPROPER OR UNSAFE EQUIPMENT			<input type="checkbox"/> FOUR (4) MONTHS OR LESS			
<input type="checkbox"/> VIOLATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY			<input type="checkbox"/> EXPIRED TAG			<input type="checkbox"/> MORE THAN FOUR (4) MONTHS			
<input type="checkbox"/> IMPROPER CHANGE OF LANE OR COURSE			<input type="checkbox"/> SIX (6) MONTHS OR LESS			<input type="checkbox"/> NO VALID DRIVER LICENSE			
<input type="checkbox"/> IMPROPER PASSING			<input type="checkbox"/> MORE THAN SIX (6) MONTHS			<input type="checkbox"/> DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED			
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD RESTRAINT			<input type="checkbox"/> NO PROOF OF INSURANCE						
<input type="checkbox"/> DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, CHEMICAL OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, DRIVING/ACTUAL PHYSICAL CONTROL WHILE IMPAIRED, OR DRIVING/ACTUAL PHYSICAL CONTROL WITH UNLAWFUL BLOOD/URINE ALCOHOL LEVEL. BAL _____ %									
ARREST DELIVERED TO _____					DATE _____				
I AGREE AND PROMISE TO COMPLY AND ANSWER TO THE CHARGES AND INSTRUCTIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS CITATION. WILLFUL REFUSAL TO ACCEPT AND SIGN THE CITATION MAY RESULT IN ARREST. I UNDERSTAND MY SIGNATURE IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT OR WAIVER OF RIGHTS. IF YOU NEED REASONABLE FACILITY ACCOMMODATIONS TO COMPLY WITH THIS CITATION, CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT.									
X SIGNATURE OF VIOLATOR _____									

What to Do If You Get a Ticket

The officer will fill out the ticket. Then he will ask you to sign it.



Before you sign the ticket, be sure your name, address, and other personal information is correct. If you do not understand something, ASK the officer.

YOU MUST SIGN THE TICKET. (If you do not sign the ticket, the officer can arrest you.) To sign the ticket is not to admit to a mistake. It just means that this officer did give you this ticket at this time and place.

If you get a ticket, you will have to pay a fine or go to court. In some cases, you may have to go to jail.

If you get a warning (about a broken light, for example), you must get the car fixed right away.

If you must go to court, the ticket will tell when and where. If you only have to pay a fine, you can pay it in several ways:

- By mail (send a check or money order, but not cash)
- In person (go to any county branch office)
- By telephone (with a credit card)
- Online (with a credit card)

Save Time...
Pay your citation or elect to attend school by phone or online using
Mastercard, Visa, American Express

Dial 1-866-824-6812
or Logon to www.pinellasclerk.org

*It's Fast, Easy, Convenient and Accessible.
Seven days a week, 24 hours a day from home or office.*
Pay Fine-Elect School
Convenience Fee Assessed

NOTE: Please allow 5-7 days for ticket to be received and processed before using this service.

A small illustration of a laptop computer on the left and a credit card on the right, both in a simple line-art style.

Word Families from the Traffic Ticket

designate	reason	complain	cite
designated	reasonable	complaint	cited
designation	unreasonable	complainant	citation

law	care	violate	proper
lawful	careful	violated	properly
unlawful	careless	violation	improper
			improperly

suspend	control	insure	instruct	sign
suspended	controlled	insured	instructed	signed
suspension	uncontrolled	uninsured	instructions	signature
	controllable	insurance		
	uncontrollable			

Clap the Stress

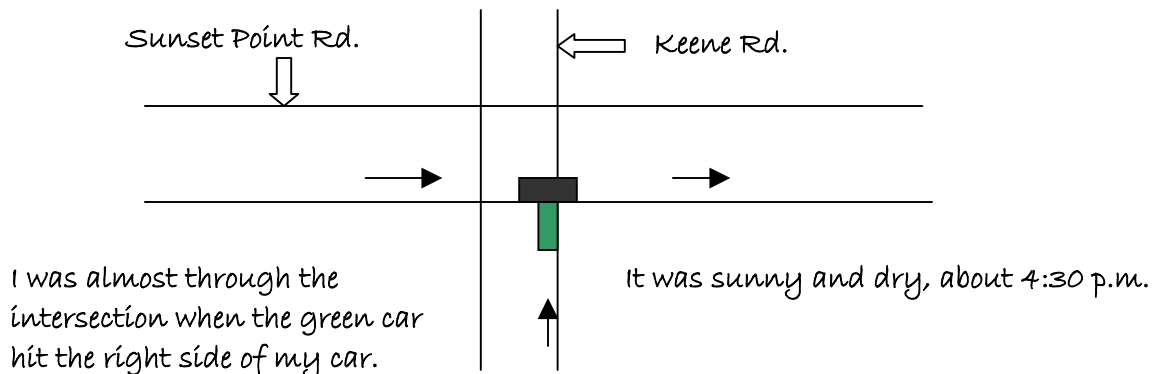
X x	x X	x X x	X x x
trooper	complaint	insurance	accident
warning	unmarked	completely	license plate
traffic	Slow down!	a ticket	steering wheel
ticket	Get out!	citation	different
highway	complete	unlawful	ambulance
driver's	expired	suspended	properly
license	unsafe	improper	signature
number	return	behind you	

x x X x	X x x x
registration	designated
violation	helicopter
designation	

In Case of an Accident

If you have an accident with your car, do the following:

1. Do not drive away.
2. If anyone is hurt, call 911.
3. Move your car to the side of the road, if possible.
4. Call the police.
5. Get the following information from the other drivers:
 - a. Full name
 - b. Address
 - c. Work and home phone numbers
 - d. Driver's license number and state
 - e. Insurance company and policy number (from proof of insurance card)
 - f. Make, model, and license plate number of vehicle
6. If others saw the accident, ask for their names, addresses, and phone numbers.
7. Draw what happened. Draw the streets, where the cars were going, etc. Write down the weather conditions and the time of day. For example:



Conversation 1

Officer: Do you know why I stopped you?

Driver: *No. What's the matter?*

Officer: Your right rear light is out.

Driver: *Please say it again. I don't understand.*

Officer: The right light in back of your car is not working. Get it fixed right away.



Conversation 2

Officer: I need to see your license, registration, and proof of insurance card.

Driver: *What's the matter?*

Officer: You were speeding.

Driver: *I don't think so, Officer. I was going 45.*

Officer: Yes, you were going 45. But that's a 35-mile-an-hour zone. I'll have to give you a ticket.



Internet Sites about Traffic Stops and Accidents

There is a lot of good information on the Internet about how to stay safe on the highways. Some of it is for newcomers to Florida. Take a look at these sites:

www.fhp.state.fl.us/misc/MoveOver.htm - about the Move Over law

www.hsmv.state.fl.us/html/dlnew.html - You can download a driver license handbook here in either English or Spanish

www.hsmv.state.fl.us/ddl/faqkeys.html - the rules for both US citizens and non-citizens about how to get a Florida driver's license or photo ID card

www.fhp.state.fl.us/PhotoGallery/PG012304.htm - an excellent article with pictures: *Scooter Safety a Real Concern*

www.pinellascounty.org - scroll down the page and click on **Traffic Tickets** (left side) to go to information on how to pay traffic tickets online.

www.chp.edu/besafe/kids/01kids_cars.php - something to print out for your kids on being safe in cars

Credits

Many people helped to create this unit. Our special thanks to:

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Please send any suggestions for improving this unit to Martha A. Lane, **Living in Pinellas County** curriculum designer and writer: marthaalane@earthlink.net.