

against you and/or your driver's license being suspended.

In nearly all court cases where a fine is levied, court costs must be paid. Even if you pay the fine by mail, the court case must still be processed through the court system. Therefore, the court costs must be paid. Court costs help fund the court system. Fine moneys help fund Missouri's public schools. *Fine moneys do not fund the Highway Patrol.*

The trooper may provide you with an information sheet explaining the court's mail-in procedures. Troopers do not collect fines.

If you lose your copy of the ticket you must contact the associate circuit court of the county in which the ticket was written. It is the responsibility of the violator to handle all traffic tickets in a timely manner. A warrant may be issued by the court when an individual fails to comply with the requirements of a traffic ticket.

Conclusion

Traffic laws are enacted to ensure the safety of the motoring public. Help make Missouri's highway safe — please obey our traffic laws. Feel free to ask the trooper questions if you receive a traffic ticket. You may also call the county prosecuting attorney of the county where you are to appear in court. Employees at the nearest Highway Patrol troop headquarters will also be willing to assist. A traffic ticket issued by one trooper cannot be changed by another Patrol employee.

Emergency Assistance

1 (800) 525-5555 or cellular *55

Road Conditions

1 (800) 222-6400 or (573) 526-8828

Meth Hotline

1 (888) 823-METH (6384)

Sex Offender Registry

1 (888) SOR-MSHP

1 (888) 767-6747

For the Missouri State Highway Patrol headquarters nearest you, consult your local phone directory.

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**What To Do
If You Are
STOPPED**



Introduction

You look into your rearview mirror and see a Patrol car behind you with its emergency lights flashing. This can be a stressful experience.



However, knowing what to do, and what not to do will make the experience less stressful and will help ensure your safety, the safety of other motorists, and the safety of the officer. This brochure is designed to inform you of what to do when stopped by a trooper.

The Motorist

Missouri Law (304.022, RSMo.) requires a motorist to pull as far as possible to the right of the traveled portion of the highway and stop when a police car approaches displaying emergency equipment. The motorist must remain stopped until the patrol car has passed, or a police officer directs them otherwise.

When you see flashing red lights on a patrol car, don't panic. Simply slow down, signal your intention to turn onto the right shoulder, and drive off the roadway to the right as far as is safe.

It is important that neither you nor your passengers make any sudden or undirected movements! The trooper does not know who you are or what your intentions are.

The Trooper

After an explanation as to why you were stopped, the trooper may ask for your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance identification card. While the trooper is approaching your vehicle, DO NOT attempt to reach under your seat, into a glove compartment, into a console, or any other place hidden from the trooper's view.

The trooper will sometimes complete the contact without requiring you to leave your car. At other times the trooper may ask you to take a seat in the patrol car. Court cases permit the officer to decide which procedure is safest for the officer. As you exit your car, always keep your hands in plain view of the trooper.



If a traffic ticket is issued by the officer, please maintain a polite and cooperative attitude. Do not attempt to debate the merits of the traffic ticket on the side of the highway. The court is the proper place to contest any grievance.

Important Note

If you are alone and uncertain if the person trying to stop you is legitimate police officer, pull over, but keep your car doors

locked. When your vehicle is then approached, roll your window down only far enough to talk. Express your concern and desire to drive to the nearest public place. Most police officers will understand and allow this, unless they suspect you are an impaired driver or your license is suspended. Once you have driven to a public place, remain in your secured vehicle until proper identification is made.

For Your Information

A traffic ticket is a legal document issued by troopers for traffic violations. A space for your signature is provided near the bottom of the traffic ticket. By signing the traffic ticket, you are not admitting guilt. Your signature merely acknowledges receipt of the traffic ticket and your promise to appear in court on the given court date, or that you will contact the court prior to the court date for disposal of the case. Refusing to sign the traffic

ticket will not eliminate your obligation to appear in court.

Once the trooper gives you a copy of the traffic ticket, you have been served a summons (subpoena) to appear in court.



Failure to appear on your scheduled court date is a violation of law and may result in additional charges being filed