

ACLU Tennessee

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

With Law Enforcement

When pulling over:

- When police turn on their “blue-lights,” you must pull over
- Find a safe place to pull over, turn off engine, put hands on steering wheel
- Wait for the officer to approach you

Items requested:

The police officer will ask the driver for the following three things during a traffic stop. You must hand these to the police.

1. Drivers License
2. Registration of the vehicle
3. Car Insurance

If you do not have a U.S.-issued driver’s license, consult with an immigration attorney about what documentation you can show to verify your identity without triggering scrutiny of your immigration status.

What to do:

- Stay Calm
- If you are driving the car, you must show your driver’s license, registration, and insurance. You do not have to give other information.
- Keep your hands visible and stay in the car unless the officer tells you otherwise.
- Be polite, even if the police officer isn’t.
- Let the officer know if you don’t understand English.
- If you are not the driver of the car, you may ask if you are free to leave.

Your rights:

- To remain silent
 - You don’t have to give any personal information.
 - You don’t have to answer questions about what happened
 - You don’t have to say ANYTHING about your immigration status (where you were born, how you came to the US, etc). However, there can be some caveats for non-citizens. To learn more about this, visit: tinyurl.com/ACLUTNImmigrantResourceHub
- To refuse a search
 - If the police ask to search you or your car, you can say NO, though in some situations the police do not need your consent.
 - If police start to search you or your car without asking, say “I do not consent to a search”
- To have a lawyer

DO NOT:

- DON’T LIE. Don’t claim to be a citizen if you aren’t. Don’t give explanations, excuses, or stories - just stay quiet.
- DON’T SIGN any documents that you don’t understand, including voluntary departure forms (I-210).
- DON’T DISCUSS your citizenship or immigration status.
- DON’T RUN or try to drive off. This will cause more trouble and could place you in physical danger.

For more: tinyurl.com/ACLUTNImmigrantResourceHub