

# BRIDGING THE GAP

*Guidelines for Interacting with Law Enforcement*



All of us need to remember, you only get one chance to make a first impression. Don't waste it!

## YOUR BASIC RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Your basic rights and responsibilities may not always be clearly defined by law enforcement officials. If stopped or detained, politely ask the deputy "why" in a manner that isn't confrontational.

The first words spoken by either the deputy or the citizen involved may very well determine the tone of the encounter and even the eventual outcome.

### IF YOU ARE STOPPED ON THE STREET:

- Answer all questions pertaining to your identity.
- Remember, you are not required to give testimony against yourself. (You do have the right to remain silent.)
- Do not "bad mouth," walk away, or run from law enforcement officials.
- If a deputy has a "reasonable suspicion" that you may be carrying a weapon or illegal substance, you may be subjected to a "pat-down" search. Do not resist the search.

### IF YOU ARE STOPPED IN A CAR:

- Slow down; safely pull over as soon as you can.
- Stay in the driver's seat with both hands in sight on the steering wheel. Do not exit the car unless asked to do so.
- Comply with the deputy's request to see your driver's license and registration. (it is the law.)
- If the deputy believes a crime has been committed, your car can be searched without a court-issued warrant.
- If you are issued a ticket: Remember on the street with the deputy, is not the place to argue or plea your case. That needs to be presented in court to an impartial judge.

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*Officer Conduct and Your Response*

- Do not resist arrest for any reason.
- Control your emotions.
- Do not make threatening motions or statements to the deputies talking to you.
- Never attempt to interfere with the arrest of others who may be with you.
- Always note the name of the deputies with whom you come in contact.
- Record, document, and report deputy misconduct immediately.

To file a complaint on a deputy go to:  
[www.johnsoncountysheriff.com](http://www.johnsoncountysheriff.com)  
or call Johnson County Sheriff's Office at (317) 736-9155

Each deputy can help change the negative perception of the police with a positive encounter, one person at a time.

### Important Phone Numbers:

- 911 (for emergency only)
- Johnson County Sheriff's Office (317) 736-9155
- JCSO Crime Tips Line (317) 346-4654
- Child Protective Services (317) 738-0301
- Children's Bureau (317) 535-3326
- United Way Helpline (317) 738-4636
- Suicide Crisis Hotline (317) 251-7575
- Safe Place (317) 738-5437
- Crime Stoppers (317) 481-5155
- Kic-It Program for Homeless (317) 412-4973
- Turning Point Domestic Violence Crisis Line  
Local (317) 736-8666  
After Hours 1-800-221-6311

For more information contact  
Johnson County Sheriff's Office (317) 736-9155  
Johnson County F.O.P. (317) 739-0336

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Youth Assistance/Crime Prevention Programs

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