

Each situation is unique and the deputy must alter his or her response to fit the circumstances.

Hardin County Deputies will:

- Inform a person of the reason for being stopped.
- Use only that amount of restraint or force necessary to affect an arrest and to maintain custody of a lawfully stopped person.
- A deputy who is not in uniform will present proper identification; you may request to examine their identification so that you are satisfied they are a law enforcement officer.
- Provide his or her name, or their supervisor's name, upon request.

Under certain circumstances a deputy may search the vehicle, driver, or occupants after stopping a vehicle.

The driver and occupants may be searched when:

- The person consents to the search.
- The driver or any occupant has been arrested and taken into custody.
- There is reasonable suspicion the driver or occupants possesses a weapon or has access to a weapon in the vehicle.

The vehicle and contents may be searched when:

- There is consent.
- There is reasonable suspicion there is a weapon in the vehicle and the driver or occupant poses a threat.
- The driver or occupant has been arrested.
- There is probable cause the vehicle contains evidence, contraband, or weapons.
- During an inventory of the vehicle prior to tow.

How are we doing?

The Hardin County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing you the very best service possible. Citizen input and feedback is essential if we are to succeed in this goal. If you have questions about any specific action taken by the office, or about how the office operates, or you have a recommendation on how we can improve, you may contact us at the numbers listed below.

Hardin County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff John Ward
Safer Streets—Stronger Community!

150 N Provident Way Suite 101
Elizabethtown KY 42701
Web Address <http://www.hcky.org/hcso/>

Phone 270-765-5133
Fax: 270-737-4574
E-mail: info.hcso@hcky.org

TRAFFIC STOPS

What To Do
When Stopped By a Sheriff's Office Deputy

Hardin County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff John Ward



Safer Streets
Stronger Communities!

270-765-5133 for emergencies call 911

Why do deputies stop people?

There are many different reasons why deputies might stop you, whatever the reason, the deputy needs your cooperation.

- You may have committed a traffic violation.
- The deputy might think you are in trouble and need help.
- You may be a potential witness to a crime.
- You may fit the description of a person of interest.

If you are stopped by a deputy you may feel confused, anxious, or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can be stressful and dangerous to the officer as well. Each year a number of law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured while making "routine traffic stops".

With this in mind, there are things you, the citizen, can do to make the encounter safer, more efficient, and hopefully more positive.



When stopped by a deputy remember;

1. When you see the blue light and/or hear the siren, remain calm and safely pull over to the curb (right) side of the road. If you are in an intersection, safely proceed through the intersection and immediately pull over to the right. It is not necessary to pull over in a legal parking space if in the city or to find a space large enough for two vehicles. If the officer is not comfortable with the location he/she will instruct you to move.
2. Remain in your vehicle unless the officer advises otherwise. Many times there may be fast moving traffic, which is dangerous to you and the officer.
3. Be sure the officer is wearing a uniform or is clearly identifiable as an officer of the law. If not, keep your door locked and ask for identification. Once you are satisfied you have been stopped by an official officer of the law, roll your window down so the officer may speak to you.
4. Avoid any sudden movements, especially towards the floorboard or under the seat. Try to keep your hands in plain sight of the officer at all times. It is a good practice to just keep your hands on the steering wheel.

5. Do not immediately reach for your license or other documents until you are instructed to do so by the officer. Kentucky law does require the driver to show their license, registration and insurance cards to a law enforcement officer upon request.
6. If your documents are out of reach tell the officer where they are located before you reach for them.
7. If the stop occurs during darkness, the officer will likely use a bright spotlight and flashlight to illuminate your vehicle.
8. If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet and cooperate with all instructions.
9. The officer may issue you a ticket. If you feel the reason is vague or unclear ask the officer for details.
10. If you are issued a ticket don't argue with the officer. Please accept it calmly. You will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.
11. The Hardin County Sheriff's Office generally uses single-officer patrol cars. It is normal for additional officers to arrive, even on routine stops.

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