

Mutual Respect

You should expect that police officers will respect your rights. It is your responsibility to act respectfully as well. Behavior that a police officer interprets as suspicious, aggressive or threatening may lead to additional questioning and potentially arrest. When interacting with the police, answer questions to the best of your ability and remain calm. If you feel that your rights were violated, you should ask to speak to a supervisor or report it through the citizen complaint process.

Getting Questioned on the Street

If a police officer stops you, you should identify yourself and answer all questions to the best of your knowledge. Do not run or walk away from a police officer, and do not argue.

Bloomington's Noise Ordinance

Noise that can be heard in the public right of way or in another resident's home may violate the City of Bloomington's noise ordinance.

Violations of the noise ordinance can result in a warning, a fine, or even misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct. Every person who occupies or controls the property on or in which the noise occurs may be subject to a fine of \$50.00 for a first violation, \$100.00 for a second violation in a 12-month period, and \$500.00 for a third or subsequent violation within a 12-month period. In addition, you may be subject to a warning or criminal conviction for disorderly conduct.

What Happens When the Police Come to My Door?

A police officer can search your home with a warrant or consent.

The police can enter your home without a warrant if they are in pursuit of a suspect, if they are making an arrest, or if they feel there is an emergency.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

For More Information

City of Bloomington Police Station
220 E. Third Street
Bloomington IN 47404
812-339-4477

police@bloomington.in.gov
<http://bloomington.in.gov/police>

Noise Ordinance:

<http://bloomington.in.gov/noise-ordinance>

Please note that this informational brochure contains general information that may not be applicable in every situation and does not constitute legal advice. For legal advice, please contact an attorney.

Everyday encounters with the Police

"Everyday encounters with the Police" is a document for all Bloomington citizens. The Commission on the Status of Black Males in partnership with the City of Bloomington Police Department is publishing this information as a way to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and citizens.

The encounter with the criminal justice system may begin at any moment, and it is often filled with confusion. This document deserves to be widely disseminated, as the information can help avoid confusion that can lead to tensions.



City of Bloomington
Community and Family
Resources Department

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Getting Pulled Over

Aggressive driving behaviors such as speeding, running a red light, and following too closely cause hundreds of crash-related deaths and thousands of injuries each year. Seatbelts significantly reduce the risk of crash-related fatalities and injuries. If you wear your seatbelt, follow other traffic laws and refrain from driving aggressively, you reduce your chances of getting pulled over.

If an emergency vehicle approaches your vehicle with its emergency lights on, merge your vehicle to the right and stop your vehicle.

Getting out of your vehicle or reaching for the glove compartment or under the seat may be perceived as aggressive behavior and a threat to the officer's safety.

Stay in your vehicle and keep your hands visible. Turn off your radio. Roll down your window. If it's night, put your dome light on. Don't reach for your license and registration until the officer asks for it.

Most officers won't tell you why you were stopped until they have your license and/or registration.

Can the Police Search My Vehicle?

If you are the driver and/or owner of the vehicle and you don't want it searched, you can clearly and politely inform the officer. However, if the officer has probable cause to search your car, he or she may legally do so without a warrant.

Do I Have to Submit to a Breath, Blood or Performance Test?

If you are suspected of drunk driving, cooperate with the officers. If you refuse to submit to breath, blood or urine tests, this may result in the suspension of your license and you may be arrested. In some circumstances, an officer may obtain a search warrant to obtain the samples at a medical facility.

What if I Get a Ticket?

The officer should give you a copy of your ticket and a fee schedule specifying the fine amount.

The fine needs to be paid to the Monroe County Clerk's Office by the date specified on the bottom of the ticket or you must inform the Court that you are "not guilty" and you wish a trial date to be set.

You may be asked to sign your ticket to acknowledge that you received it. Signing isn't an admission of guilt. If you disagree with the ticket, don't argue at the scene. Instead, go to the Charlotte T. Zietlow Justice Center at 301 N. College Ave. at the time specified on the bottom of your ticket. You will need to plead "not guilty." You will then be assigned another court appearance in front of a judge at a later date to argue your case.

Probable Cause

Police officers must have probable cause to obtain a warrant, make an arrest, or conduct a personal property search. Probable cause exists when there are facts or evidence that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a suspect has committed a crime. Examples of probable cause include the sight of contraband in plain view or an admission of guilt.

Reasonable Suspicion

Reasonable suspicion exists when there are facts or circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a suspect has, is, or is about to commit a crime. If a police officer has reasonable suspicion, he or she has the right to detain a suspect for investigatory purposes and frisk the outside of the suspect's clothing for weapons.

A combination of particular facts, even if each is individually insignificant, may form the basis of reasonable suspicion.

Examples of reasonable suspicion include someone who fits a description of a criminal suspect or who drops a suspicious object after seeing police.