

Know Your Rights

During A Traffic Stop



Workshop Overview: This training is designed to provide survival skills to "people of color" during a traffic stop. It is unique in that it is filled with role play exercises in order to give participants practice engaging law-enforcement during a difficult situation. Trainees will watch video examples of traffic stops that went out of control in order to identify an alternative set of positive behaviors. Special focus will be given to de-escalation techniques that will result in a positive outcome.

Module One: Two Different Worlds

- Mothers having the "Talk"
- How police training shapes shootings
- Current racial bias in law enforcement

Module Two: The First Three Minutes

Six ways that you increase tension with a police officer during a traffic stop

- Behaviors that reduce trust during a traffic stop
- Personal exercise

Staying Safe

- Where to pull over at night
- Letting the police know you are pulling over

Keeping Your Hands Visible

- Moving slowly to get your identification
- Explaining your intentions
- Keeping your hands on the steering wheel

Understanding probable cause for the traffic stop

- When can you expect this from a police officer?
- Examples of "probable cause" for a traffic stop



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Module Three: De-Escalation Skills

- Exploring your beliefs about police officers
- Replacing negative messages
- Describing the personal triggers that escalate a traffic stop
- Learning skills that will enable you to remain calm
- Techniques to de-escalate a confrontation with law enforcement



Module Four: Communicating with the Police

Communication skills:

- Setting a positive tone during the engagement
- Why hostility is not an effective behavior
- Typical questions during a traffic stop
- Responding to irrelevant personal questions
- The right to remain silent
- Recognizing “personal” versus “traffic stop” questions
- Passenger legal rights and communication
- Signing the traffic citation



Module Five: Working with an Attorney

- What to do if you are arrested
- Finding a competent attorney
- The importance of staying silent
- Potential legal resources
- What to do if your human rights have been violated