



WHAT TO DO IF STOPPED BY THE POLICE?

Your Informational Guide
Rights and Responsibilities



**NORTH LAS VEGAS
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
1301 East Lake Mead Blvd.
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030
3755 West Washburn
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89031
(702) 633-9111
ADA Accommodations (702) 633-1510
TDD (800) 326-6868



TRAFFIC STOPS

Why am I being stopped by the police?

The most likely reason why people are stopped while driving is for violations of the vehicle code. These violations fall into two categories, moving and non-moving violations.

- Moving violations include: improper lane change, failure to stop at a red light or stop sign, and driving in excess of the posted speed limit
- Non-moving violations include: occupants not wearing a seat belt, children not properly restrained, broken tail light or brake light, and failure to possess valid drivers license, vehicle registration, or proof of insurance

Other reasons you may be stopped include:

- Criminal investigations: you or your vehicle may match the description of a suspect in a crime
- Courtesy or safety concerns: your trunk may be open, or something may be hanging from, or be on top of, your car
- A warrant exists for an occupant of the vehicle

I'm being pulled over by the police, what do I do?

- Slow down
- Safely pull over to the right side of the road
- Make a complete stop
- Leave your seatbelt fastened
- Stay in the car (do not get out of the car unless instructed to do so by the police officer)
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel
- When asked, show the officer your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance
- Be respectful, even if you disagree with the reason you've been stopped

Why did you stop me?

- The police officer will tell you why you were stopped and may choose to give you a verbal warning, or issue you a citation
- If you are issued a citation, the reason will be stated on that document
- If you're still unsure, or not given a reason for being stopped, ask the officer why you were stopped

I disagree with the reason I was stopped, what do I do?

- Keep track of all pertinent information about the stop, including the officer's name and identification number
- If you are issued a citation and disagree with it, you have the right to present your case to a judge
- If you do not agree with the reason for the stop or are offended by the officer's demeanor, you have the ability to complain to the officer's supervisor by contacting the police department. Officers are unable to handle complaints at the scene

DRIVER AND OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

What are my responsibilities as the owner of a vehicle?

As the owner, it is your responsibility to ensure that the person driving the vehicle has a valid driver's license and is a safe driver.

What are my responsibilities as a driver?

As the driver, it is your responsibility (not the owner's) to ensure that the vehicle you're driving is insured and that the proper vehicle registration and proof of insurance are in the car.

You are also responsible for:

- The conduct of the passengers, including throwing trash out the window, hanging their arms or legs out of the window, or acting in a disorderly manner
- Ensuring that all passengers are wearing their seatbelts and that children are properly secured

What must I have to lawfully operate a motor vehicle?

- Valid driver's license
- Proof of vehicle registration
- Proof of current insurance

What if I don't have that with me when I'm stopped?

Depending on the circumstances:

- You could be issued a citation
- You could be arrested
- Your vehicle could be towed

OTHER STOPS

Why am I being stopped by the police?

A person might be stopped if the officer has reason to believe the person:

- Has committed a crime
- Is about to commit a crime
- Has evidence of a crime

Other reasons may include:

- Officers are seeking information about a crime
- Alerting people of safety concerns

Can I be stopped for curfew violations?

Unless in the company of a guardian or parent, or have a school function waiver, children and youth can be stopped for violation of curfew.

North Las Vegas curfew times are:

- Weekdays: Sunday through Thursday, 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
- Weekends: Friday and Saturday, 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.

What do I do if I'm stopped?

- Keep your hands where the officer can see them, don't put them in your pockets
- Stay put and stay calm, don't walk or run from police
- Don't interfere with an officer making an arrest, making a traffic stop, or questioning other persons
- If ordered to do so, comply with the procedures for a search. You may be subjected to a pat-down search if the officer has reasonable suspicion that you may be carrying a weapon or illegal substance

I disagree with the reason I was stopped, what do I do?

- Keep track of all pertinent information about the stop, including the officer's name and identification number
- If you are arrested and disagree with the reason, you have the right to legal representation and all sides of your case can be presented in court to the judge
- If you do not agree with the reason for the stop or are offended by the officer's demeanor, you have the ability to complain to the officer's supervisor by contacting the police department. Officers are unable to handle complaints at the scene

POLICE AT YOUR HOME

Why are the police at my home?

A police officer can enter a residence if:

- You give them consent
- They have an arrest or search warrant
- There are urgent circumstances, i.e., in pursuit of a suspect who just entered your home, or they believe a suspect or evidence will be lost if they wait for a warrant
- They are performing community care-taking functions, i.e., rendering first aid, preventing serious harm to a person or property, or locating a missing person

What happens if I'm arrested?

- If you are arrested, you must be told what you're being charged with
- Don't resist arrest, even if you disagree with the reason or charge
- Following your arrest, if you are charged with a crime, you have the right to legal representation
- If you are a foreign national, at the time of arrest law enforcement officers have a legal obligation to advise you of your right to communicate with your corresponding Consulate. If you request that your Consular office be notified by the arresting officers, this notification should occur without delay

What are my constitutional rights?

If you are being questioned after an arrest, all persons (juveniles and adults) have the following rights, referred to as the Miranda rights:

- You have the right to remain silent
- Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law

- You have the right to talk to an attorney and have him or her present while you are questioned
- If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you at no expense

What do the police have a right to do?

- Police may use reasonable force to make an arrest or detain someone
- If they have probable cause, they can search you, your vehicle, and, in some cases, your residence
- If they have probable cause, they can seize your property
- If they have reasonable suspicion that you have a weapon or illegal substance, they can search you

REFERRALS

Emergency Police	911
Non Emergency Police.....	311 or (702) 633-9111
Animal Control	(702) 633-1750
Chaplains	(702) 633-2104
Civil I.D. (Work cards)	(702) 633-1807
Community Services	(702) 633-1808
Crossing Guard Coordinator.....	(702) 633-1017 ext. 5100
Detective Bureau	(702) 633-1773
Evidence Vault	(702) 633-1803
Narcotics.....	(702) 633-1793
Professional Standards.....	(702) 633-1809
Records	(702) 633-1715
Recruitment	(702) 633-2255
Traffic NWAC	(702) 633-1017 ext. 5016
Traffic SAC	(702) 633-1017 ext. 5013
Training	(702) 633-1832
Victim/Witness	(702) 633-1751

NORTH LAS VEGAS POLICE DEPT. LOCATION & HOURS

1301 E. Lake Mead (corner of Lake Mead and Bruce)
North Las Vegas, NV 89030
3755 W. Washburn (corner of Washburn and Allen)
North Las Vegas, NV 89031
Patrol and Operation Hours: Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Administration Hours: Mon-Thur 8:00am - 6:00pm

MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE CHIEF

North Las Vegas is "Your Community of Choice", whether you work, live, or play here. You are part of a wonderful and complex group of diverse people, each contributing to our growing city. As Chief of the North Las Vegas Police Department, I along with those under my command, continue to strive toward creating a spirit of community partnership in an effort to provide you with a safe and livable community.

Mayor & Council
Shari L. Buck
William E. Robinson
Robert L. Eliason
Anita G. Wood
Richard J. Cherchio

City Manager
Gregory E. Rose

Chief of Police
Joseph K. Forti