

Our Core Values

*With **integrity**, **compassion**, and **courage**, we serve our communities-protecting life and property, being diligent and **professional** in our acts and deeds, holding ourselves and each other **accountable** for our actions at all times, while **respecting** the dignity and rights of all.*

Earning the Public Trust Every Day!



Los Angeles County **Sheriff's Department**

PALMDALE STATION
750 EAST AVENUE Q
PALMDALE, CA 93550
661-272-2400

LANCASTER STATION
501 W. LANCASTER BLVD
LANCASTER, CA 93534
661-948-8466

WWW.LASD.ORG

HOW ARE WE DOING?
Commendations or Complaints
1-800-698-TALK

WHAT

TO DO IF YOU ARE

STOPPED

BY A DEPUTY SHERIFF
In the Antelope Valley



YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

LASD TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN STOPS

Did you know that traffic stops are the most common reason the general public will have contact with the police? Our biggest concern is safety: yours, ours, and all those around us. LASD cares about your understanding the laws that govern traffic stops, your constitutional rights, and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department's expectations of our deputies when serving our community. This brochure is designed to help promote improved relations and understanding between members of the community and Deputy Sheriffs.

WHY DO DEPUTIES MAKE TRAFFIC STOPS?

Did you commit a traffic violation?
Do you fit the description of someone who committed a crime?
Does your vehicle match one that was used to commit a crime?
Is your vehicle safe for you to drive?
Do you need help?
Were you possibly a witness to a crime?

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

We request that you remain in your vehicle, unless directed otherwise, and practice the S.A.F.E. principles:

Show your hands and avoid sudden movements.

Ask for permission to reach for something such as your license and registration.

Follow instructions that are within your legal rights.

Exchange information that is within your legal rights.

WE RESPECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

I don't believe I did anything wrong, do I need to follow the deputies' orders?

If a deputy gives you an order or command, you should comply, even if you believe you have done nothing wrong. If at the end of the contact you are not satisfied with the deputy's explanation, feel free to request a field supervisor or call the watch commander at your local station to discuss your contact.

What is a consensual contact?

Deputies are tasked with keeping the community safe. They will oftentimes talk with people who are already stopped in vehicles, walking or riding bikes in the community, or citizens who are standing in and around businesses. If a deputy asks to speak with you, but does not make any demands ("Excuse me, may I speak with you?" vs. "Come here.") this is a consensual contact and you are under no legal obligation to speak to or interact with the deputy, and are free to leave.

What if a deputy asks permission to search me or my property?

If a deputy asks your permission to search either you or your property, he is seeking CONSENT. This is common and could be due to safety concerns for you or the deputy; or the deputy believes there is contraband on your person or in your property. **You may either give consent, give limited consent** ("You may only search my trunk") **or refuse a consent search altogether.** If you have given consent, you may change your mind at any time.

I refused or changed my mind about consent, but the deputy searched me anyway!

Deputies will often seek consent when they already have sufficient legal reason to detain or search you and your property. This tends to de-escalate the potential for conflict and to seek your cooperation. If you feel that you were illegally searched or detained, contact the station watch commander to discuss your concerns.

DID YOU KNOW?

Red lights and/or siren mean pull over to the right and stop where it is safe and where you will not block traffic.

If it is dark, the deputy will use a bright light to illuminate you and your car. We recommend you turn your interior light on to further assist the deputy.

The U.S. Supreme Court states it is **reasonable and legal** for a deputy to ask you and your passengers to exit the car.

California law requires all drivers to show their license, registration, and insurance card to a peace officer upon request.

According to State law, if you refuse to sign a citation, you may be arrested. Signing is not an admission of guilt, but merely a promise to appear in court at a later time.

Backseat detentions are when the deputy asks or requires you to sit in the backseat of the patrol car during a stop. This occurs when someone may pose a threat or escape risk, and is optional when you request privacy, personal safety, or shelter from weather. The deputy will explain the reason for the backseat detention, and there are circumstances where you may appropriately decline. However, that is not always an option as the deputy may have cause to arrest or legally detain.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Our deputies are trained to be respectful, courteous and professional when they contact you. Within a reasonable amount of time, the deputy will explain why you were stopped.

When it is safe and practical to do so, we expect our deputies to provide you with his or her business card upon request. Deputies who are not in uniform will also present proper identification upon request.

TALK TO US 1.800.698.TALK (8255)

You can call us, contact us in person, via our website (www.lasd.org), or by mail. Any LASD patrol station watch commander can document your complaint or commendation. Watch commanders can discuss a deputy's conduct, but only the court has the authority to adjudicate a case.