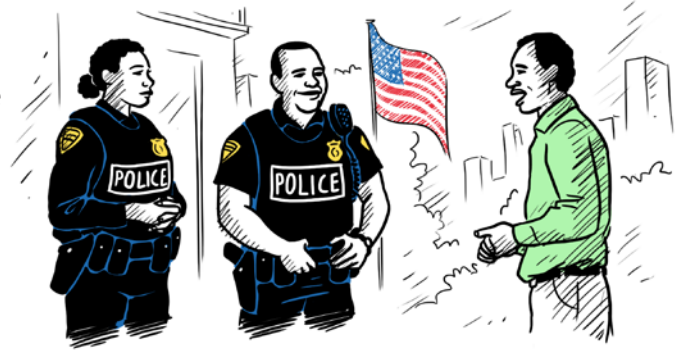


How to INTERACT WITH THE POLICE IN THE UNITED STATES

The role of the police in the United States is to maintain public order and safety, enforce the law, and protect the civil rights of individuals in communities across the country. If you have an emergency, you may need to call 9-1-1 to ask for assistance. Like firefighters and ambulances, the police may arrive to assist you.

You may also encounter the police in a variety of situations in your communities such as when they stop drivers for traffic violations.




If you encounter the police in public, are stopped by them while driving, or engage with them in any setting, here are some tips for appropriate ways to interact with them:

- 1 Stay calm and control your emotions.
- 2 Be respectful. Don't argue.
- 3 Keep your hands visible and out of your pockets.
- 4 Don't run or reach for anything suddenly.
- 5 Stay in one place and be still.
- 6 If you are in a vehicle, stay in the vehicle and keep your seatbelt fastened.
- 7 Don't touch or stand too close to a police officer.
- 8 Carry your I.D. and the phone number of someone who can help you, if needed.
- 9 Ask if you are free to leave and, if so, depart calmly.

Remember: It's okay to say you don't understand. You have a legal right to an interpreter. If you are accused of breaking a law and are arrested, you have the right to remain silent and talk to a lawyer before being questioned. If you cannot afford a lawyer, the court will pay for one to represent you. If you have questions about interacting with the police, be sure to ask the staff at your resettlement office for assistance.

Here is a card you can carry to assist you in interacting with the police.
Make sure to ASK FIRST and RECEIVE PERMISSION before reaching for this card.

 **REFUGEE-POLICE INTERACTION CARD**

I am a resettled refugee.
I am in the United States legally.
I speak _____. I need an interpreter.
Please call _____.
MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange

8719 Colesville Road, 3rd Floor • Silver Spring, MD 20910

For more information, visit the CORE Resettlement Navigator website at corenav.org.



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