

Officer Conduct and Your Response

“The best way to avoid conflict is to not provoke the officer while having a discussion about law enforcement matters.”

- Do not resist arrest for any reason.
- Control your emotions.
- Do not make threatening motions or statements to the officers talking to you.
- Never attempt to interfere with the arrest of others who may be with you.
- Always note the name of the officers with whom you come in contact.
- Document and report officer misconduct immediately.

You may complain about an employee in the following ways:

- Call
- Write
- Speak personally to a supervisor

If you wish to have a formal investigation conducted, you must complete and sign a complaint form.

If you are under the age of 18, you must have a parent or guardian with you.

False complaints against a Police Officer may be punishable both criminally and civilly.

The Lancaster Police Internal Affairs Department can be contacted Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm, (972) 218-2733/(972) 218-2725.

Important Phone Numbers:

- Lancaster Police Department: 972-218-2700
- Crime Stoppers: 24/7 Hotline: 877-373-8477
- Texas Runway/Youth Hotline: 888-580-4357
- City of Lancaster Outreach: 972-227-0138

Interaction with Law Enforcement



The members of the Lancaster Police Department adhere to a set of positive values and Code of Ethics.

Guidelines for Interacting with Law Enforcement

“The easiest way to avoid conflict with law enforcement officials is simply to stay out of trouble.”

YOUR BASIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Your basic rights and responsibilities may not always be clearly defined by law enforcement officials. If stopped or detained, politely ask the officer “why” in a manner that is not confrontational.

(The first words spoken by either the officer or the citizen involved may very well determine the tone of the encounter and even the eventual outcome.)

IF YOU ARE STOPPED ON THE STREET:

- Answer all questions pertaining to your identity.
- Remember, you are not required to give testimony against yourself. (You do have a right to remain silent.)
- Do not “bad mouth” or walk away from the law enforcement officials.
- If an officer has a “reasonable suspicion” that you may be carrying a weapon or illegal substance, you may be subjected to a “pat-down” search. Do not resist the search.

IF YOU ARE STOPPED IN A CAR:

- Slow down; safely pull over as soon as you can.
- Stay in the driver’s seat with both hands in sight on the steering wheel. Do not exit the car unless asked to do so.
- Comply with the officer’s request to see your driver’s license and insurance.
- If you are issued a ticket, sign it. (Doing so is not an admission of guilt.)