

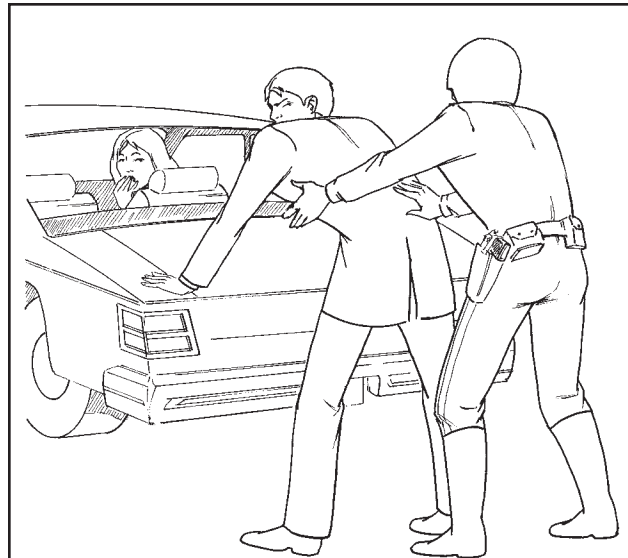
WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO SURVIVE IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE

1

Pull over immediately.

Put your hazard lights on, take off your sunglasses, turn off the radio, and turn off the engine. Roll down your window. Keep your hands in plain sight, preferably on the steering wheel. Make sure your date's hands are also in view.



Address the officer as "Officer." Respect for authority will get you out of the situation much more quickly and easily.

2 Address the officer as “Officer.”

Displaying proper respect will get you out of the situation much more quickly and easily.

3 Always tell the truth about your record.

The police officer already knows (or will soon know) the answers to the questions asked. Do not claim that you have a clean driving record if this is not the case.

4 Do not argue with or challenge the officer.

Not only will you look foolish and/or arrogant in front of your date, your comments may be recorded on the officer’s copy of the ticket so they can be used to refresh the officer’s memory in court. Do not give the officer a reason to take a personal interest in you or your case, which would only encourage the officer to show up in court if you decide to fight the ticket. (Many defendants succeed in court because the officer is not present to testify.)

5 Do not falsely claim your innocence.

The officer has seen you do it, and denying the infraction or making lame excuses will only serve to irritate the officer.

6 Use the presence of your date to help you.

Try saying, “Officer, I’m sorry. I’m on a date and I guess I was pretty distracted. I’m a bit nervous and probably was paying more attention to her than to my driving. I’ll be more careful.” This may appeal to the officer’s sense of romance, helping you get off completely.

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED

1 Contact a bail bondsman.

A bondsman will need to know the name of the jail you are in, the charges against you, the amount of your bail, and your booking number. The bondsman will charge you a fee of about 10 percent of your total bail amount and then make a guarantee to the court on your behalf that you will show up for your court date. (If bail is set at \$50,000, for example, you will be required to pay the bondsman a nonrefundable fee of approximately \$5,000.)

2 Be prepared to put up collateral.

When a bondsman writes a bail bond for you, he is on the hook for the entire amount of your bail should you not show up in court. He will demand a guarantee that you can pay him the full amount if you should jump bail. Ninety percent of the time, large bail bonds are secured with real property. Evaluate your assets in light of the amount of bail.