

# Tips for Contact with the Police



Adapted from the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association

## Contact with the Police

- Traffic Stops:
  - Pull over safely and immediately
  - Keep your hands in plain view
  - Remain in your vehicle
  - Follow all instructions during the contact
  - Advise the officer you are armed & have a permit (not required, but recommended. Don't surprise the officer)
  - If you feel the officer has mistreated you, allow the officer to complete their business, obtain the name and agency of the officer and contact the agency with your concern. Creating a conflict on the roadway is not constructive.

## Contact with the Police

- General Incidents:
  - Potentially volatile situations
  - Keep your hands in plain view
  - Follow instructions by the officer. Remember the officer may not know you or know the specifics of the situation until they investigate.
  - Advise the officer you are armed & have a permit (not required, but recommended. Don't surprise the officer)

## Contact with the Police

- Follow instructions
  - You may be asked to identify yourself, if you are detained or arrested you **MUST** identify yourself
  - Do not give false information
  - May be temporarily separated from weapon or property (safety, stolen checks)
  - You may know your intent, the officer does not
  - Ask for instructions as necessary

## Contact with the Police

- Follow instructions (con't.)
  - Must provide weapon permit and picture ID if requested
  - Don't argue, it will only escalate the situation
  - Direct complaints to the officer's agency or supervisor

## Contact with the Police

Deadly Force Incidents

## Contact with the Police

- Deadly Force Incidents
  - Have a plan! (“what if?” exercises from start to finish, use only the force necessary)
  - You’ve fired your weapon in self-defense, now what?
  - Call 911 ASAP – follow instructions
  - Remember the four safety rules

## Contact with the Police

- Deadly Force Incidents (con’t.)
  - Remain alert – suspect could still pose a threat
  - First Aid?
  - Do not disturb the scene
  - Responding officers will probably NOT know what the exact situation is

## Contact with the Police

- Deadly Force Incidents (con't.)
  - Secure weapons before police arrive – no guns in your hand
  - When officers arrive, show them your hands & identify yourself
  - Follow the officer's instructions

## Contact with the Police

- Deadly Force Incidents (con't.)
  - You will be detained until officers sort out the situation
  - You probably will NOT be arrested in an obvious JUSTIFIED act of self-defense
  - You may be read your rights – this does not necessarily mean you are under arrest
  - Decide whether you will speak to police or request an attorney first

## Contact with the Police

### Assisting the Police

## Contact with the Police

- Assisting the Police
  - Only in life threatening situations – use common sense
  - No surprises (get officer's attention, no weapon in your hand)
  - Obtain permission/instructions from the officer first, if possible

## Contact with the Police

- Assisting the Police (con't.)
  - If told to help, you become temporarily “deputized” in a sense
  - Use only the force necessary
  - Be a good witness – provide as much detailed information as possible
  - Do not leave until told otherwise