

TRAFFIC STOP INFORMATION



The Meridian Township Police Department is committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships in our community; and with understanding, cooperation, and equality we strive to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of our community.

WHY DID I GET PULLED OVER?

Police officers legally conduct traffic stops for many reasons. Most often it's because an officer observes a motorist disobeying traffic laws.

It is the responsibility of the officer to enforce traffic laws. No one likes to be pulled over or receive a ticket, but it's the primary way that police can maintain the public's compliance with traffic laws. Strict traffic enforcement will result in hundreds of saved lives every year.

For the state of Michigan, in 2025, there were 290,221 traffic crashes resulting in 70,591 injuries and 1,065 deaths.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THE OFFICER?

The officer will greet you and inform you of the reason for the traffic stop. You should be treated with courtesy and professionalism.

The officer will request your license, registration, and insurance. You are obligated by law to produce these items when requested. The officer will explain any citation or warning that you receive.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I'M STOPPED?

If you are driving a car and an officer signals you to stop, you must pull over. Pull safely to the right side of the road. If there is a curb, stop next to the curb. If there is a shoulder, pull gently onto the shoulder. The officer will position the patrol car in such a way as to protect you, your vehicle, and the officer from traffic.

Please stay in your vehicle and keep your hands in sight. Leaving your hands on the steering wheel works well. Do not exit your car unless directed to do so by the officer. Wait for the officer to approach the vehicle and speak with you.

WHY DOES THE OFFICER USE ALL THOSE SPOTLIGHTS AT NIGHT?

If you are stopped at night, you will probably notice that the officer attempts to illuminate the interior of your car using spotlights. This allows the officer to see inside your car. For the safety of the officer, we need to know how many people are inside the vehicle, and we need to be able to see what the occupants are doing.

Our actions during a traffic stop are guided by the fact that many police officers are injured or killed each year during traffic stops. Our goal is to protect you, the motorist, and to ensure our own safety as well.

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IF I'VE ONLY BEEN PULLED OVER FOR A TRAFFIC OFFENSE, WHY DO OTHER POLICE CARS SHOW UP?

It is common for officers who are in the area to assist each other even if they are not requested. This is simply a routine safety precaution.

WHY DOESN'T THE OFFICER SPEND TIME CATCHING CRIMINALS INSTEAD OF WRITING TICKETS?

We do answer many calls for service involving criminal activity, and we are proactive in the prevention of crimes. Traffic safety, through the enforcement of traffic laws, is an important part of our duties.

There is one traffic fatality every 13 minutes in the U.S. That is more than double the number of murders.

There is one traffic injury every 9 seconds, which is more than three times the number of aggravated assaults.

Police officers spend 6 to 8 hours at a crash involving serious injury or death but only 1 to 2 hours at non-injury accidents. Injury crashes cost 4 to 8 times as many tax dollars to investigate.

By focusing on traffic safety, we are attempting to prevent accidents and reduce the number of injuries and fatalities on our roadways.

In 2025, Meridian Township policed 943 traffic accidents. Of these, 170 resulted in injuries.

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH THE TICKET?

If you are issued a citation and you disagree, please don't argue with the officer at the scene. You have the right to contest the citation before a judge or magistrate at a later time. It does not require the services of an attorney, and the time involved is often minimal.

HOW DO I TAKE CARE OF THE CITATION?

The back of the citation contains information regarding your options for taking care of the ticket. Find the information that applies to you and follow the instructions provided.

Failure to respond to the citation in a timely manner could expose you to increased fines, possible license suspension, and/or arrest.

The address and phone number for the court will appear on the front of the citation.

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WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE ABOUT THE OFFICER'S ACTIONS?

The Meridian Township Police Department takes pride in the professionalism of our officers. We strive to conduct our duties with integrity and in an unbiased manner.

If you would like to offer a compliment or concern about an officer's actions, please feel free to do one of the following:

1. Call us at 517.853.4800 and ask to speak with a supervisor.
2. Call or write Rick Grillo, Chief of Police
5151 Mash Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517.853.4800
grillo@meridian.mi.us

REMINDER: SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES!

Nearly 2/3 of passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were unrestrained.



CONTACT US

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 517.332.6526

Administration: 517.853.4800

Website: meridian.mi.us/Police

