

ACTk NOWledge

Knowledge is power... be responsible for what you know

Youth Guide for Interacting with Police Officers



Respect is the key in any relationship. We all want to be treated with common courtesy and respect.

Remember the police are here for you; seek them out when you need any sort of help. This is true even if you have had bad interactions with the police in the past.

Our police officer's job is to keep everyone safe – including you.

Thank You,

Young Adults Focus Council (YAFC)

United Against Violence of Greater Dayton (UAVGD)

The purpose of this guide is to inform you of the laws that most often affect youth, to give you tips on how to interact with police officers if you come in contact with them, and to explain some of the policies and procedures that police officers follow to ensure your safety and the safety of our community.

This guide is not intended to serve as a legal document or provide legal advice.

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Guide is produced by:

Young Adults Focus Council 4 Young Adults

www.stopviolence.org

**United
Against
VIOLENCE**
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Police Knock on Your Door

Helpful Tips

- Make sure each individual is really a police officer by requesting to see a badge and/or identification card.
- They cannot refuse to give you this information.
- Be pleasant but serious.
- Make sure that the officers are at the correct house by asking, "How can I help you?"
- Try to stay calm and control your emotions.
- Do not make threatening motions or statements to the officers talking to you.
- If the officers do not have a search warrant or are not in "hot pursuit" you can deny entry.
- If the officers insist on entering your home, do not resist or argue with them or try to prevent them from entering.

Stopped on the Street as a Pedestrian

Helpful Tips

- How you react and answer the questions may determine whether or not you get arrested.
- **Don't RUN.**
- Identify yourself.
- Answer all questions to the best of your knowledge.
- Do not **"BAD MOUTH"** or walk away from police officers, even in instances where you feel they are wrong.
- If the police officer behaves inappropriately, report their misconduct to a supervisor at a later time.
- If an officer has "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.
- **Obey all requests made of you.**

If You Are Arrested

Regardless of your guilt or innocence.

- Go with the police officer peacefully. Otherwise you could be charged with resisting an arrest on top of any other charges.
- You need to provide your basic information **your name, age, date of birth and current address.**
- If you are under 18, police are required to contact your parents or guardians following your arrest.
- Following your arrest your **Miranda Rights** should be read to you before the police ask you any questions related to the crime you were arrested for (except for asking for your basic information).



Miranda Rights

"You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him/her with you while you are questioned.

If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before any questioning, if you wish. Do you understand each of these rights as I have explained them to you?"

Waiver (Declining, Rejecting)

"If you consent to a waiver of your Miranda Rights, either verbally, in writing, or by continuing to answer questions, the police may proceed with questioning; any evidence may be used against you in court."

All Schools Are Weapons Free Zones.

If you are caught with any weapon at school, you will be automatically suspended with recommendation for expulsion and face a fine or jail time – or both.

Did you know? Even if you just

- hold a gun while looking at it,
- play with a gun,
- keep a gun in a school locker, a gym bag, or
- place a gun in the bushes,

These are all considered control and possession of a gun.

If you give a gun to a friend and they end up hurting or fatally shooting someone, you could also face serious legal consequences because you gave your friend the gun used to commit a crime.

You Will Do the Time for Gun Crime

Gun possession and use is a serious crime in the state of Ohio and there are harsh penalties, even if you are a minor.

Cutting School (Truancy)

By law, a school district must file a truancy petition when there is

"Habitual Truancy" is defined as absence from school for

- 5 or more unexcused absences in a row or
- 7 or more unexcused absences within one month or
- 12 unexcused absences within one year.

"Chronic Truancy" is defined as absence for

- 7 or more consecutive days or
- 10 days in a single month or
- 15 school days out of the year.

If you are deemed to be truant, you and your parents can be held accountable.

Call for HELP!

The police would rather hear about something that turns out to be a false alarm than nothing at all.

Some crimes can be very hard to report, especially if people you know are involved.

Sometimes reporting a crime will be the only thing that you can do to clear your conscience.



Available Resources

If you have any personal safety concerns or hears rumors of weapons or something going down at school, talk to any school teacher/administrator immediately or call 9-1-1.

EMERGENCIES 911

NON-EMERGENCIES

Dayton Police Department 333-COPS (2677)

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office 225-4357

Trotwood Police Department 837-7777

REFERRALS

Artemis Center 461-5091
www.artemiscenter.org

Bullying (S.T.A.R.S.) 229-7777

Children Services 224-KIDS

Samaritan CrisisCare 224-4646

CyberTipline 1-800-THE-Lost
www.cybertipline.com

Dayton Mediation Center 333-2345
www.daytonmediationcenter.org

Daybreak 461-1000

Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office 225-5757

Victim/Witness Division, 24-Hour 225-5623
www.mcpc.com

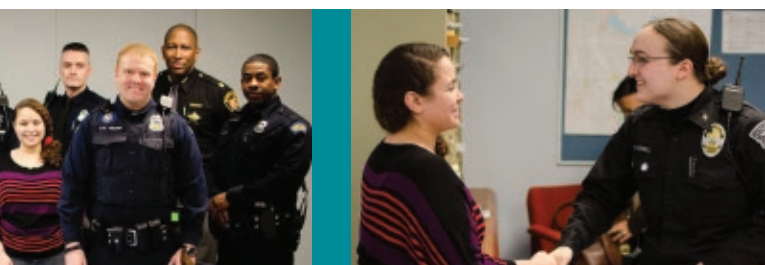
Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline 222-SAFE

Suicide Prevention Center 229-7777

**Samaritan Behavioral Health's
United Against Violence** 734-3484
www.stopviolence.org

**YWCA – Shelter and Housing Network
(24-hour)** 222-6333

www.stopviolence.org



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Bus Conduct

Harassing, interfering or assaulting the bus driver while he/she is in control of the bus is a felony.

The following rules apply to public transportation such as Metro and regional transit systems:

- Don't smoke, litter or spit.
- Don't disturb others with loud, raucous, unruly, harmful, or harassing behavior.
- No fighting, cussing or swearing.
- Throwing objects are distractions to the bus driver and affect the safety and comfort of other riders.
- Destroying, defacing, damaging, tagging, scratching, etching, or breaking any part of a bus is illegal.
- Use earphones if you use an electronic music or game device.

Juvenile Protection Order

In Montgomery County, persons who have experienced harassment by a juvenile may request a Juvenile Protection Order (JPO)

(JPO)* A Court Order that makes it a crime for the Respondent to come near or harass the protected party.

To file a Petition for a JPO at the Montgomery County Justice Center:

- The person you want protection from must be under age 18. (This is the respondent.)
- You must live in Montgomery County.

Note: There is no fee for filing for a (JPO).

Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office

Victim/Witness Division, 24-Hour Crisis Line:
(937) 225-5623, www.mcpo.com

Artemis Center: 24-Hour Domestic Hotline

(937) 222-SAFE, www.artemiscenter.org

Identification

It is illegal to use another person's identification, give a fake or altered identification, or represent yourself as a person of at least 21 years old for the purpose of obtaining liquor from a store clerk, bartender or an establishment that serves adults over 21 years old or for the sole purpose of getting into that establishment.

Unreasonable Noise

It is illegal to knowingly cause, make or allow unreasonable noise that is disruptive to others. You could be charged if you fail to stop when you are told to do so by a police officer. Each City and Township can set their own noise ordinances for their area, so contact your local police department.

Traffic Stops

Traffic stops are potentially a very dangerous situation for police officers. Remember, they don't know anything about who specifically is driving until they reach the car. Approaching your car with caution is a routine safety precaution. Calling for backup is also routine, especially at night.

Helpful Tips:

- Remain calm and safely pull over to the right side of the road,
- Stay in your vehicle.
- Keep your hands visible
- Follow the directions you are given.
- Do not jump to conclusions.
- Wait and listen for the reason you are being stopped.
- Speak calmly and with respect.
- Tell any passengers to do the same.
- At night, please turn on your interior car light.
- Your attitude may send a message – either good or bad.

Graduated Driver License

Graduated licensing allows young drivers who are at least 15 years and 6 months to improve their skills and promote safe and good driving habits.

Holders of probationary licenses and temporary instruction permits who are less than 18 years of age are

- Not permitted to operate a motor vehicle with more than one person who is not a family member in the vehicle, unless accompanied by the license holder's parent, guardian, or legal custodian.
- Prohibited from driving between midnight and 6 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, or legal custodian.

Driving Under the Influence

If the odor of alcohol or marijuana is in your car, the police officer is required to determine if you are drunk or high before they let you drive away. This gives the police officer probable cause to look in your car.

Possession of Marijuana

Possession of marijuana is a crime. Having less than 100 grams is a Minor Misdemeanor. If you are in possession of more than 100 grams of marijuana, you can be charged with a felony crime and could go to prison for more than one year. If you have lots of little baggies you could be charged with trafficking in drugs.

Possession of Liquor

It is unlawful for anyone under 21 years old to possess, consume or acquire liquor. You cannot have an open or unopened container of beer, wine, wine cooler or any other intoxicant beverage in your possession or around your immediate surroundings.



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Use of Wireless Devices – Cell Phones

If you're under age 18: It is illegal to use any electronic wireless communications device while driving in Ohio.

This means:

- No texting
- No e-mailing
- No talking on your cell phone, Bluetooth, Bluetooth speakers, On-Star or any similar device
- No computers, laptops or tablets
- No playing video games
- No using your GPS (unless it's a voice-operated or hands-free device) – even when you are sitting at a light or stuck in traffic

It's a Primary Offense if you are under the age of 18. Police officers can stop you for any of the above reasons. First violation: \$150 fine, driver license suspended for 60 days; Second and/or subsequent violations: \$300 fine, driver license suspended for one year Exceptions: Pre-programmed GPS, vehicles in a stationary position and outside a lane of travel, emergency calls to law enforcement, hospital, fire department, etc.

Abusive Romantic Relationships

Anyone can be a victim of rape, sexual assault and dating violence.

The following are signs of abuse when the perpetrator

- Insults you in public or private.
- Checks up on where you've been.
- Puts down your friends/family or tries to isolate you from them.
- Says jealousy is a sign of love.
- Destroys your things.
- Threatens to hurt you, your family, or your pets.
- Is violent toward you or hits you.

If you think you are being abused, or are in relationship that scares you, understand that you are not to blame and should not be ashamed to ask for help. Tell a trusted friend or family member. In immediate danger call 9-1-1.

Predators

Online predators try to manipulate (trick) young people into sexual situations. Predators can be any age, race and gender.

Predators might:

- Send gifts
- Offer a free cell phone
- Ask you to meet
- May pretend to be your age
- Keep you isolated from family and friends

You should: Tell an adult you trust, REPORT.

- Never agree to meet someone you do not know in person.

Do not give out your home address, your school, or even your city.
“Predators can use this information to find you in person.”

Cyberbullying

Sending/posting harmful text messages; creating a fake profile online.

Helpful Tips

- Don't respond
- Block/Ban the bully
- Save the evidence
- Set Up new accounts
- **TELL** an adult you trust
- **REPORT**

*Youth have been expelled from school, kicked off of sports teams, and even arrested for comments they post. **Threats made online are still threats. If you can print out what is said and provide it to the police this is very helpful.***

Hate Crimes

Hate crimes are criminal acts, motivated by prejudice and are committed against someone because of his or her:

- Race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, age or gender

Hate crimes can be a misdemeanor or a felony.

In a hate crime, the victim is selected because of a characteristic that he/she cannot change.

Sexting

The sharing of sexually explicit or nude photos of yourself or others. Sexting can be illegal for minors. Many teens think, “It's my body. I can do what I want.” Reminder, if you are under the age of 18, you are a minor. Therefore:

- If you **have revealing pictures** on your phone, you can be charged with child pornography.
- If you **send revealing pictures** to someone else, you can be charged with distributing it.

Does not matter that it's a picture you took of yourself; you can still be charged.

Sexting –What's the Harm? Not only illegal, but:

- You could lose scholarships
- You could lose your job
- You could be kicked off athletic teams and or other extra school activities
- You could be humiliated at school (humiliation has led to young people committing suicide)
- You can have regrets
- **YOU LOSE CONTROL!**

Never pressure anyone into sexting because it can get really out of control.

*Offenders not only face being arrested, but could be labeled a sex offender. **Where to report:***

CyberTipline – www.cybertipline.com or 1-800-THE-LOST

Contact your school or your local police.