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When you see flashing lights in your rearview mirror, you may get nervous. What should you do if you see a police officer behind you to ensure your safety as well as the officer's safety?

According to Burleson Traffic Sgt. Brian O'Heren, you should immediately pull to the right side of the road, even if you are closer to the left/center median. If the officer is simply trying to get around you the officer is taught not to pass on the right. And most importantly, it's the law that you pull to the right side of the road.

Stay in your vehicle! The officer does not know who you are and will not know your intentions so if you get out of your vehicle the officer may believe his/her safety is in question and react accordingly.

Please put your vehicle in park. This lets the officer know that your vehicle will not accidentally roll backwards or forwards.

Put both hands on the steering wheel or in plain sight. Wait until instructed by the officer before looking for the documents requested (driver's license, insurance, vehicle registration). This gives the officer an opportunity to visually inspect the interior of the vehicle before you start digging into your glove box or center console.

If you do not agree with a citation you have the right to set it for court and speak with the judge. If you have a complaint about the officer's actions, you can contact the on-duty supervisor after the traffic stop is concluded. Wait until the officer is safely away from your vehicle before merging back into traffic.

If you get pulled over at night, you are alone, and if you are in an area that is not well populated, turn on your flashing hazard lights, slow to the posted speed or slower, turn on your dome light, and immediately move to a well-lit business if you feel that that is necessary. If you can, call 9-1-1 and tell the operator what you are doing and where you are located. Turning on your dome light allows the officer to see the interior of your vehicle and take count of how many passengers are in the vehicle.

If there is a medical emergency or any other kind of emergency in your vehicle, immediately pull to the right side of the road and turn on your flashing hazard lights. When the officer exits the patrol car, shout that there is a medical or other emergency in a clear, loud voice, then follow the instructions of the officer.

It is important to remember, both your actions as well the officer's actions, are recorded (audio/video) as prescribed by current Texas law.