

Mission Statement

Working with the community, the Raleigh Police Department exists to preserve life, peace and property through conscientious attention to our lawful duties.

Internal Affairs Unit

It is the role of the Internal Affairs Unit to investigate complaints against police employees as directed by the Chief of Police. Investigations will be conducted promptly and thoroughly. The Raleigh Police Department expects all police employees to maintain professional standards and observe department policies. The goal of all investigations is to find the truth.

You may initiate a complaint by contacting the Internal Affairs Unit by telephone, in person, by mail or by email by using the following contact information.

Mail to:

**Raleigh Police Department
Internal Affairs Unit
P.O. Box 590
Raleigh, NC 27602**

Email:

Rpdinternal.affairs@ci.raleigh.nc.us

Telephone:

(919) 996-3155

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What should I do if an officer stops my car?

Answer: Stay calm, avoid any quick movements and keep your hands visible. If the officer asked to see your driver's license and registration, then provide it. The officer may direct you and your passengers to stay in the car or to get out of the car. Follow the officer's instruction.

Question: If an officer stops me, will the officer explain to me why I am being stopped?

Answer: Yes, the officer will explain why you are being stopped.

Question: Are officers supposed to show me their identification?

Answer: An officer is supposed to provide you with their name and identification number.

Question: If I am arrested, is the officer going to handcuff me?

Answer: Yes, if a full custody arrest is made then the officer is going to handcuff you with your hands behind your back. This is for your safety and the officer's safety.

Question: If I am arrested is the officer going to search me?

Answer: Yes., incident to a full custody arrest an officer is going to search you and the area within your immediate control. If you are arrested out of a vehicle, then the passenger area of the vehicle is going to be searched.

Question: Does an officer have to have a search warrant to search my car?

Answer: While some vehicle searches are conducted pursuant to a search warrant, most vehicle searches take place without a warrant. Sometimes the search is by consent; sometimes the search is incident to an arrest of someone in the vehicle and sometimes the vehicle is searched because it is stopped in a public place and there is probable cause to believe that there is evidence of a crime in the vehicle.



**Raleigh Police
Department**

A Community's Guide

*Interacting with members
of your Raleigh Police
Department*



**RALEIGH POLICE DEPARTMENT
110 S. MCDOWELL STREET
RALEIGH, NC. 27602
(919) 996-3335
<http://www.raleighnc.gov/>**

Police Officers and the Public

Raleigh police officers have thousands of contacts with members of the community each year. These interactions include criminal law enforcement responsibilities such as crime prevention, investigation and apprehension of suspects, victim assistance, crisis intervention and transportation of mentally ill consumers, traffic law enforcement, and overall quality of life protection. Not only do the police serve the community but the police view the community as a valuable partner whose cooperation is vital and appreciated. To enhance a positive police/public relationship we want to take this opportunity to explain why we do what we do and what steps you can take to insure that you have a satisfactory encounter with our officers.



Voluntary Encounters

Under the law, an officer can approach any person to engage in a voluntary encounter or conversation. Officers are encouraged to engage the public to develop relationships through meaningful conversation. A citizen has the right to decline a conversation but we believe strongly that the more we talk to and listen to each other, the better our community will be.

Investigative

Stops and Detentions

Officers are authorized to stop or detain a person against their will when the officer has reasonable suspicion, based on the facts, that the person has committed, is committing or is about to commit a crime. The courts have authorized, and the public expects, that an officer use this brief encounter to investigate their suspicion of criminal activity. An officer may use a reasonable amount of force or a show of force (such as flashing blue lights) to make a stop. If an officer has facts that lead the officer to believe that the person stopped is armed or dangerous or presents a threat of harm, then the officer is authorized to conduct a frisk to locate weapons.

Probable Cause to Arrest

An officer may arrest a person when the officer has probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed. Probable cause is based on the facts and circumstances known to the officer that a person probably committed a crime. Sometimes an officer makes an arrest with an arrest warrant that has been issued by a judicial official and sometimes an officer makes an arrest without a warrant. Under some circumstances, an officer may issue a citation charging a person with a crime instead of taking the person into custody. Once a person is arrested, then the officer will conduct a search of the person and the area within their immediate control. The courts have authorized officers to conduct a full search of the passenger area of a vehicle, including containers, anytime an officer makes a full-custody arrest of an occupant in a vehicle.

Contacting the Police Department Regarding Police Employees

If you would like to commend an officer for a job well done or if you feel you need to raise a concern or file a complaint, then there are many ways to contact the Department. You may contact any police supervisor at the appropriate Police District at the following locations either in person or by telephone.

Raleigh Police Districts' Contact Information

Northwest District

8016 Glenwood Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 420-2300

Northeast District

4501 Atlantic Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 873-2457

North District

8320-120 Litchford Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27615
(919) 713-4208

Southwest District

601 Hutton St.
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 831-6167

Southeast District

1601-30 Cross Link Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27610
(919) 847-4455

Downtown District

110 S. McDowell St.
Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 890-3855