

**MISSION OF THE
BOISE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

To enhance public safety through proactive problem solving and increased community partnerships.

**What to Expect
COMMENT, COMPLAIN, COMPLIMENT**

Boise Police are trained to treat everyone with respect while insuring public safety. If you think your rights have been violated, officers cannot handle your complaint at the scene.

To complain or compliment an officer, you may call non-emergency dispatch, 377-6790, and ask for a Boise Police supervisor. You may also contact the Boise Community Ombudsman at 395-7859 within 90 days of the incident to file a complaint.

Citizens are cautioned against filing intentionally false complaints, as that could result in criminal charges.

**What to Expect
AUTHORITY OF POLICE**

- Police may use reasonable force to make an arrest or detain someone.
- If officers have probable cause of criminal activity or a reasonable suspicion that you have a weapon or illegal substance, they may search you, your vehicle and, in some cases, your residence.
- If they have probable cause, they can seize your property.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The Boise Police Department is committed to the protection and safety of the citizens we serve. Public understanding of citizen rights and responsibilities is key to public safety. We hope this guide helps citizens better understand police procedure and due process of the law, with the goal of a safe community for all.

**MESSAGE FROM THE
OMBUDSMAN**



The Office of Community Ombudsman exists to promote public confidence and accountability of Boise City's police and law enforcement employees through unbiased investigation of citizen complaints, independent review of police actions, thoughtful policy recommendations, and on-going public outreach. We are committed to building greater understanding between the police and the public they serve.

CONTACTS

Boise Police Department
Internal Affairs433-5600
Community Ombudsman395-7859
Log onto:
www.boisepolice.org, click *Online Services*
or www.boiseombudsman.org

What to Expect Understanding the Law and Police Procedure



This publication is a joint project of the City of Boise Police Department and the Community Ombudsman.

David H. Bieter
Mayor

Michael Masterson Pierce Murphy
Chief of Police Ombudsman

What to Expect

CONTACT WITH POLICE OFFICERS OCCURS IN MANY WAYS:

- Traffic stops or accidents.
- During a criminal investigation, an officer may stop you in search of information.
- You may give information to officers as a victim or witness.
- To alert you to safety concerns.
- During community events.
- Emergency situations.

What to Expect

WHEN POLICE COME TO YOUR HOME

A police officer can enter your residence if:

- You give them consent.
- They have an arrest or search warrant.
- An emergency exists, someone calling for help, first aid is needed, or to prevent injury or harm.
- Pursuing a criminal suspect, or if officers believe criminal evidence may be lost if they wait for a warrant.

What to Expect

WHEN YOU ARE ARRESTED

- The Officer will ask for your name, date of birth and address. You are not required to talk to police, but doing so may resolve the situation more quickly.
- Don't give false information.
- You may see a lawyer. If you can't pay for a lawyer, one will be appointed for you.

What to Expect

WHEN YOU ARE STOPPED IN PERSON BY A POLICE OFFICER



Officers may stop and talk with individuals for a number of reasons, including to check your welfare or that of your neighborhood. If the officer believes a person has committed a crime, is about to commit a crime, or has information about a crime, they may be detained by police.

- **You may be asked for your name, birth date and a form of identification.** It's usually not a crime to refuse to answer questions, but not answering may raise suspicions about you. You can be arrested for providing false information to police.
- **Stay calm, be polite and respectful.** Don't get into an argument with the officer.
- **You may ask why** the action is being taken. If you are under arrest, you have the right to know why.
- **Keep your hands where the police can see them.**
- **Don't run away.**
- **Don't touch, interfere or obstruct the officers** or you could be arrested.
- Police may pat down your clothing if they suspect you're carrying a concealed weapon.
- **Don't complain at the scene.** If you do not agree with the reason for the stop or the officer's demeanor, you may file a complaint at any time up to 90 days after the incident.
- **On request, an officer must provide his or her name and ID number** when it is safe to do so.

What to Expect

WHEN YOU ARE STOPPED IN YOUR CAR BY AN OFFICER

Traffic safety is a big concern for citizens, and traffic enforcement is an important role for police. Traffic stops, however, can be very dangerous for officers and uncomfortable for citizens. Citizen cooperation can make the stop safer for everyone involved.



You may be stopped if the officer observes:

- Illegal driving behavior.
- Defective or improper vehicle equipment.
- Evidence of possible criminal activity.

When stopped:

- **Safely pull over to the right. Stay in your vehicle. Turn on your interior light** if stopped at night.
- **Keep your hands on the steering wheel.**
- **You'll be asked to give your license, registration and proof of insurance.** Driving without these items is cause for a citation or arrest.
- **If you are carrying a concealed weapon, tell the officer.** Don't try to reach for or display the weapon unless requested to do so.
- **The officer should treat you in a courteous and professional manner.** If you are issued a ticket, you should receive an explanation of why, as well as your options for resolving it.
- **You do not have to consent to a search of your person or vehicle,** but an officer may still search if the officer has reason to suspect criminal activity.