

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

- Bicyclists and pedestrians must obey traffic signals.
- Do not walk or ride a bike on highways.
- Pedestrians have the right of way in crosswalks. If there isn't a crosswalk, traffic has the right of way. Jaywalking is a crime.
- WALK means walk; DON'T WALK or WAIT means do not start to cross.
- Never walk in the street. If a sidewalk is not available, walk as close as you can near the side of the street.
- Bicyclists must ride in the same direction as vehicle traffic does.



*OPOM serves as a proactive leader in law enforcement accountability to the Fort Worth Police Department and the community it serves. OPOM accepts complaints and commendations of Fort Worth police officers.*

## How to file a complaint or commendation with OPOM

- **Online:** [FortWorthTexas.gov/OPOM](https://FortWorthTexas.gov/OPOM)
- **Email:** [PoliceOversight@FortWorthTexas.gov](mailto:PoliceOversight@FortWorthTexas.gov)
- **In-person:** Call 817-392-6535 for an appointment, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **By Mail:** Download, print and complete the Citizen Complaint or Commendation Form (PDF). Mail to: Office of the Police Oversight Monitor, 200 Texas Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102
- **Printed Copies:** Printed copies of the Complaint or Commendation Form are also available.

### OPOM Functions

Oversight and accountability

Intake complaints and commendations

Monitor contacts, complaints, investigations and policing practices

Review policies and procedures

Research, benchmark and make recommendations

Auditing

Restorative Justice Mediation Program

Community engagement

Data collection and analysis

Periodic reporting

Revised 11/2022



## Real Talk, Real Rights

*Interactions with a police officer*

**Officer of the Police Oversight Monitor**

[FortWorthTexas.gov/OPOM](https://FortWorthTexas.gov/OPOM)

[PoliceOversight@FortWorthTexas.gov](mailto:PoliceOversight@FortWorthTexas.gov)

817-392-6535

 [facebook.com/FortWorthPoliceOversight](https://facebook.com/FortWorthPoliceOversight)

 [twitter.com/FWPoliceMonitor](https://twitter.com/FWPoliceMonitor)

*This information is not intended as legal advice.*

**Building a Stronger Community-Police  
Relationship Together**

## If a police officer approaches or stops you on the sidewalk/street...

- Remain calm and polite.
- Keep your hands visible at all times.
- Do not interfere with the officer's duties.
- If you choose to speak, be honest.
- If asked, identify yourself. Never be dishonest about your identity.
- Do not run from an officer. Ask if you are free to leave and if you are told you are, walk away calmly.
- You do not have to consent to a search during a consensual encounter. Officers may conduct a pat-down search during an investigatory stop if they have a reasonable fear that you carry a weapon. Officers can conduct a search if you are under arrest.



## Types of police encounters

- **Consensual Encounter:** When you or a police officer approach one another and initiate contact in public, and either or both are free to leave.
- **Investigatory Stop:** When a police officer temporarily detains you because they have a reasonable suspicion that a crime has been, is being, or is about to be committed by you.
- **Arrest:** When an officer takes you into custody because they have probable cause that you have committed, or are about to commit a crime.

## If you are arrested...

- Follow the officer's commands and **DO NOT** resist.
- You must provide the officer with your true name, address and date of birth.
- If you wish to speak, do not lie to officer(s).
- If you wish to remain silent, you may tell the officer you are exercising your right to do so.
- You can ask for an attorney without waiving your right to remain silent. If you can't afford an attorney, one may be provided to you.
- Within a reasonable amount of time after your arrest, you may make a local call. Police officers cannot listen if you call a lawyer.
- If you believe your police encounter was improper, gather all information available to you and file a complaint.
- Note the date and time of the encounter, officers and witnesses names, and their contact information.



## If a police officer stops you while in a car...

- If you are driving, stop the car in a safe place as quickly as possible. As you are attempting to pull over, you may want to turn on your hazard lights to indicate your awareness that the officer is behind you. Once stopped, turn off the car, turn on the internal light, open the window partway and place your hands on the wheel. If you are a passenger, you may want to ensure your hands are visible to the officer.
- If asked, show officers your driver's license, registration and proof of insurance.
- If you have a concealed handgun license and you are carrying a handgun, you are required to display your license to carry when an officer requests your identification.
- Remain in the car unless asked to exit.
- If an officer asks to search your car, you can refuse. If you are under arrest, or an officer sees or has probable cause that your car contains evidence of a crime, they can search it without your consent. Officers can also conduct a cursory search of the car if they have reasonable suspicion that a weapon is in the car.
- Signing a ticket is not an admission of guilt; it is a promise to appear in court. Failure to sign a ticket may lead to your arrest.
- Both drivers and passengers have the right to remain silent. If you're the driver and asked to identify yourself, you can provide your driver's license or verbally identify yourself. If you're the passenger, you can ask if you're free to leave; if yes, you may leave.
- Do not argue with the officer at the scene. If you feel you were treated unfairly, present your case in court.
- If you are stopped for impaired driving, an officer may conduct a field sobriety test. If an officer has probable cause, you may be arrested and transported for more testing.