CHRISTOPHER J. TRAINOR
& ASSOCIATES

TRAFFIC STOP CHECKLIST

Know Your Rights & Protect Yourself During a Police Stop in Michigan

△ **IMPORTANT:** Stay calm and be respectful at all times — your physical safety comes first. Asserting your rights calmly and clearly is legal. Resisting physically — even an unlawful stop — is not. Document everything. Call an attorney if your rights were violated.

1 WHEN YOU SEE THE LIGHTS

- ☐ Turn on your hazard lights immediately
- ☐ Slow down and pull safely to the right
- ☐ Turn off the engine once stopped
- ☐ Turn on interior lights if it's dark
- ☐ Keep both hands visible on the steering wheel
- ☐ Stay in the vehicle unless told otherwise

2 WHAT YOU MUST PROVIDE

- ☐ Driver's license when requested
- ☐ Vehicle registration when requested
- ☐ Proof of insurance when requested
- ☐ Tell the officer where documents are before reaching
- ☐ Passengers: ID only if officer has reasonable suspicion
- ☐ You are NOT required to answer other questions

3 KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- ☐ You have the right to remain silent — use it
- ☐ You can refuse consent to search your vehicle
- ☐ Say clearly: "I do not consent to this search"
- ☐ You may record police in a public space
- ☐ Ask calmly: "Am I free to go?" if you want to leave
- ☐ You have the right to an attorney if arrested

4 WHAT NOT TO DO

- ☐ Do not argue, raise your voice, or be confrontational
- ☐ Do not lie or provide false information
- ☐ Do not consent to a search — even if you have nothing to hide
- ☐ Do not make sudden movements without telling the officer
- ☐ Do not speculate or explain why you were where you were
- ☐ Do not physically resist — even if the stop is unlawful

5 AFTER THE STOP — DOCUMENT EVERYTHING

- ☐ Write down the officer's name, badge number & patrol car number
- ☐ Note the exact time, date, and location of the stop
- ☐ Record what was said and done — in order, immediately
- ☐ Photograph any injuries, damage, or evidence
- ☐ Get the names of any witnesses present
- ☐ If your rights were violated — call an attorney immediately

WERE YOUR RIGHTS VIOLATED? CALL US — IT'S FREE.

If you were subjected to an unlawful search, excessive force, wrongful arrest, or any form of police misconduct — you may have a civil rights claim under federal law.

Christopher Trainor & Associates | MichiganLegalCenter.com

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No fees unless we win your case.

This document is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. No attorney–client relationship is formed by use of this checklist.

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY: Anything you say can be used against you in court • Do not explain, justify, or speculate • Do not consent to searches • Do not post about the stop on social media • Do not give recorded statements without an attorney present