

SFPD CAN STILL STOP YOU for these reasons:

- If SFPD has another lawful basis to stop you, such as when they have probable cause that you committed a crime.
- If you committed a violation (e.g., speeding, running a red light) that is NOT on the banned list. More info on the banned list is inside this brochure.
- If police are investigating a traffic collision.
- If you were driving a commercial vehicle.
- If you or your car matches the description of a person or car involved in a serious felony (but only in certain cases).

What should you do if you think SFPD illegally stopped and detained you?



FILE A COMPLAINT with the SF Department of Police Accountability at (415) 241-7711 or sfdpa@sfgov.org.

If you need assistance filing the complaint, contact the SF Public Defender's Office's Integrity Unit at (415) 553-1671 or pdr-integrity@sfgov.org.

Even if you believe SFPD violated the pretext traffic stop policy, evidence and statements that police gather may still be used against you in criminal court.

Pretext Traffic Stop DO's and DON'Ts

- **DO** follow the officer's instructions and remain calm.
- **DO** keep your hands on the wheel where the officer can see them, and let the officer know what you are doing before you make any movements.
- **DO** ask an officer if you have to answer a question.
- **DO** request a lawyer if you are arrested, but otherwise remain silent.
- **DON'T** lie, give explanations, or excuses.
- **DON'T** give the officer permission to a search of your person or car.
- **DON'T** resist a search if the officer goes ahead and conducts the search without your permission.

Source: ACLU, SF Public Defender's Ofc.

If you are under 18 years old:

- You have a right to talk with a Public Defender following arrest and can't give up this right.
- You can request that a responsible adult be present when police ask you questions.

SFPD'S NEW PRETEXT TRAFFIC STOP POLICY: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



Here's what you need to know

(effective July 17, 2024)



Learn more at EndBiasedStopsSF.org



EndBiasedStopsSF.org



What is a pretext stop?

A PRETEXT STOP occurs when police use a traffic infraction to investigate other suspected wrongdoing, oftentimes based on a hunch.

- During a pretext stop, an officer stops a person using, for example, a broken tail light to ask questions unrelated to the traffic infraction or to search people or the car.
- Pretext stops hide racial bias, are disproportionately used against Black and brown people, and can lead to misconduct or excessive force.
- Like several other U.S. cities, San Francisco has changed its pretext stops policy to restrict pretext stops that further racism and do not make anyone safer.

UNDER THE NEW POLICY, SFPD CAN NOT STOP YOU based only on one or more of these reasons



If your car has only a rear license plate

If your car has no registration or registration that expired for less than 1 year ago

REGISTRATION



If your rear license plate is not lit up

If only one of your tail lights is working



If you have an item hanging from the rear view mirror (BUT if the item could cause an accident, police can still stop you)

If you don't use your turn signal continuously for 100 feet before a turn



If you are sleeping in your car (BUT police can still stop you if another city agency has requested they stop you)

If you're a pedestrian and police think you committed an infraction (BUT they can still stop you if there is an immediate danger of a crash)



Want to know more?



Scan this QR code to view the full policy. This brochure explains key points to remember.