



The Bottom Line

Like all conversations, respect for the other person can go a long way.

Most confrontations can be avoided when all parties communicate respectfully.

Remember, receiving a ticket is not an admission of guilt. It's a promise to appear in court or pay a fine on the infraction listed.



Contact Us:

This information presented by:

CPD Community Outreach

The Chattanooga Police Department's Community Outreach Division seeks to support, educate and empower the community. If there's any information that you need or would like a topic presented, please contact us!



Traffic Stop Rights, Responsibilities and Expectations

Chattanooga Police Department

Driver's Rights

Driving in Tennessee is a privilege, not a right.

However, you do have the right to feel secure in your vehicles. TN law sees a vehicle as an extension of the home. This is called the Castle Doctrine and gives a driver the same rights that one would have in their home to protect them against intruders.



Driver's Responsibilities

- You must possess a valid driver's license or permit while operating a vehicle.
- You must produce a valid license, proof of insurance, and valid registration upon request from a peace officer.
- You must follow the laws of TN while operating a vehicle.
- You assume responsibility for passengers in the vehicle you operate and own.

Do you have additional questions about driving in TN? Contact us for more info!

Contact Us:



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Traffic Stops

→ The Traffic Stop

- Signal your intention to stop. Pull over safely to the right side of the road as soon as traffic allows.
- Remain calm and speak with the officer.
- Avoid sudden unnecessary movements like reaching in places out of sight of the officer.

→ The Investigation

- The officer will ask for driving documents (license, insurance, and vehicle registration).
- Engage in healthy dialogue with the officer.

→ Citations

- Your acceptance and signature on a traffic ticket is not an admission of guilt.
- You may seek to contest the decision in court.
- If you have questions regarding the officer's conduct, you may contact the officer's agency and request to speak to a supervisor. This is best done as soon as possible after the stop.