

	WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT Policy & Procedures TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT		
	Chapter: 700	Volume Seven: Traffic Operations	
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700.1 **POLICY & PURPOSE**

700.1.1

POLICY: The metropolitan New Jersey area suffers loss of life and resources annually due to motor vehicle accidents. The highly mobile nature of this area dictates the development of traffic regulations which are necessary to minimize/eliminate the effects of traffic accidents. As such, a program of enforcement, education and engineering must be designed to decrease the number, and severity, of accidents based on known accident locations and patterns. It is therefore the policy of the Woodbridge Township Police Department to establish guidelines for traffic enforcement, education and engineering. The department shall strive to provide uniform traffic law enforcement consistent with New Jersey State Statutes and accepted standards within the law enforcement community. All enforcement actions will be accomplished by agency personnel using a fair, impartial and courteous manner.

700.1.2

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines which ensure that traffic enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws, and take into account the degree and severity of the violations. The objectives of traffic law enforcement are to reduce traffic accidents and injuries, and to facilitate the safe and expeditious flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic through voluntary compliance with traffic regulations. This department seeks to achieve these objectives through a combination of education, engineering, and enforcement. Enforcement action as related to traffic law may result in physical arrest, summons or warnings. Enforcement actions shall seek to detect, apprehend and deter traffic law violators, and to bring about voluntary compliance by the public of all traffic laws.

700.3

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTION

700.3.4

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED DURING TRAFFIC STOPS: It is essential that officers fully

explain to a motorist being cited, their rights and requirements pertaining to the issuance of a summons. In all cases the officer will inform the motorist of the reason for the motor vehicle stop, and give his/her name and badge number.

A. OTHER REQUIRED INFORMATION: Additional information includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Court appearance date, time and location.
2. Information relative to the specific charge.
3. Optional or mandatory nature of the court appearance.
4. Notice of whether the motorist is permitted to enter a plea, or pay the summons by mail or in person at the violations bureau.
5. Phone number of the court clerk.
6. Location/address of where their vehicle has been towed (if applicable).
7. Other information as necessary, prior to release.

700.3.7

OFFICER CONDUCT WITH VIOLATORS: Once an officer has stopped a violator and established control, “officer/violator relations” are activated. The purpose of this section is to provide guidelines to favorably alter the violator’s future driving habits through proper enforcement action and to minimize conflict between the officer and the violator.

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES: In approaching the offender's vehicle the officer should present a highly professional image. The following procedures are recommended to fulfill that goal.

1. Present a professional image through proper attire, language, bearing and emotional stability.
2. Greet the violator in a courteous manner and introduce yourself. Ask the violator for their license, the registration and insurance documentation. Inquire further for other proof of identity should the driver not have his license in his possession.
3. Inform the violator of the observed violation and your intended enforcement action. Do not lecture or quiz the violator as to the nature of the violation. The violator should not be kept in suspense as to the nature of the officer's actions. Allow the operator to reasonably discuss the violation.
4. Decide on the appropriate enforcement action based upon the driving behavior, not attitude. In most cases, it is advisable to decide on the form of enforcement action prior to the initial contact with the violator.
5. Delay the operator no longer than necessary. This does not preclude the officer from making standard inquiries via the computer as to the current status of the violator’s driver license.
6. Officers will not debate the merits of the violation at the scene. Politely advise the violator the place to debate the violation is before an impartial judge. If a summons is appropriate, issue the summons as quickly as possible.
7. Explain to the violator exactly what is expected of him to satisfy the summons issued. Make sure the violator knows exactly where and when to appear if the enforcement action requires a court appearance. Explain any alternatives to the violator but do not predict the actions of the court.
8. Be alert to any emotional stress exhibited by the driver. The instructions may have to be repeated or the driver may have to calm down before resuming driving.
9. Return the driver's license, registration and insurance card with the summons should that be the appropriate enforcement action taken.
10. Assist the violator in safely reentering the traffic flow.