



WICHITA POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL

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POLICY 409 – VEHICLE/PEDESTRIAN STOPS/FOOT PURSUITS

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to Wichita Police Department (WPD) members when engaging in vehicle/pedestrian stops and foot pursuits.

II. PROCEDURES

A. General Guidelines [KLEAP 12.1.2]

1. The Department's efforts and resources will be directed toward assigning officers to those areas where there is the highest likelihood of addressing citizen complaints, reducing crashes, and preventing crime through proactive patrol.
2. Motorists and pedestrians shall only be subjected to stops, seizures, or detention upon reasonable and articulable suspicion they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit a violation of the law.
3. When stopping a vehicle or pedestrian for any reason, all members are to notify the dispatcher of the following information in the following order:
 - a. Unit number
 - b. The fact of stopping a vehicle/pedestrian
 - c. Location of the stop
 - d. Tag number for vehicles
 - e. Vehicle/pedestrian description
 - f. Any other pertinent information
4. Officers should request backup if needed or report no assistance needed.
5. The Department recognizes officers may develop individualized approaches for minimizing conflict during officer/violator contacts. Recognizing situations evolve rapidly, when possible, the following is required:
 - a. Give a greeting, such as "Hello" or "Good morning", "Good evening" etc.
 - b. Identify yourself. Ex: "I am Officer Smith of the Wichita Police Department."
 - c. State the reason why the person is being stopped or detained. Ex: "I stopped you because I saw your vehicle travel through the stop sign at the last intersection without coming to a complete stop."
 - d. It may defuse tension to ask a motorist if there was some reason for the violation. This gives them the opportunity to "have their say," often leading to an admission of the violation. If you choose not to ask but the motorist wishes to give a reason or explanation, listen politely, and provide the opportunity to tell their story.
 - e. Politely ask for identification and any required documents.

- f. After completing any necessary paperwork, inform the motorist or pedestrian what action is being taken and what the person must do as a result (e.g., how to pay any fine involved, obtain a traffic court hearing, etc.)
 - g. Inform the motorist or pedestrian they are free to leave.
 - h. Give an appropriate closing. For example, if the motorist was cooperative, “Thank you for your cooperation” may be in order. Do not say the trite expression, “Have a nice day,” which could be inappropriate in some circumstances. “Please drive carefully, your safety is important to us” is more appropriate.
6. No motorist or pedestrian, once cited or warned, shall be detained beyond the point where no reasonable and articulable suspicion of further criminal activity exists. No person or vehicle shall be searched in the absence of a warrant, a legally recognized exception to the warrant requirement, or the person’s voluntary consent.
 7. Consent searches should only be conducted with written consent using the Wichita Police Department Form 322.106 or by documenting verbal consent using a Body-Worn Camera.

B. Complaints of Racial or Other Biased-Based Policing

1. Any member contacted by a person who wishes to file such a complaint shall inform the citizen such complaints can be made with Professional Standards (268-4256) or at any police substation. Supervisors should respond to the scene if requested by the complainant.
2. Supervisors receiving a racial profiling complaint shall forward it to the Professional Standards Bureau. All such complaints shall be reviewed, acknowledged to the complainant in writing, and the complainant shall be informed of the results of the Department’s investigation within a reasonable time. The report and the conclusion shall be filed with the Chief of Police and shall contain findings and any suggestions for disciplinary action or changes in policy, training, or tactics.
3. Supervisors shall review profiling complaints and reports filed on stops by officers and respond at random to back up officers on vehicle stops and take appropriate action. This may include but is not limited to coaching and discipline. Extra effort may be taken to ensure there are no patterns or practices of possible discriminatory treatment by individual officers.

C. Pretext (Whren) Stops

1. Members who observe a traffic violation must have reasonable suspicion or probable cause to stop the violator for such violation and may have the intent of investigating another, more serious crime unrelated to the violation (Whren vs United States).
2. Members utilizing a Pretext Stop must be able to articulate the violation used to conduct the stop and the reasonableness of pretext intentions which shall be documented on a citation or miscellaneous report, at a minimum.
3. The scope of the traffic stop may not be extended beyond the violation for which the person was stopped absent articulable reasonable suspicion of a crime.

D. Foot Pursuits

Officers must weigh the need to apprehend a suspect against the risks to themselves, the public, and the suspect. Officers shall comply with all applicable laws, departmental training, and SOPs during foot pursuits.