Tips for Interacting with the Police

Our navigator team asked Sgt. Boody for some rules that he would recommend for individuals on the autism spectrum to review and practice with their families and therapists. Our shared goal is to prevent misunderstandings that could potentially lead to dangerous situations. Here is what he said:

When you are pulled over:

- When you see Police lights flashing, pull over immediately and safely to the right-hand-side of the road.
- Roll down your window.
- Place your hands on your steering wheel. When asked, provide your driver’s license, registration and insurance information to the Officer.
- Let the Officer know that you have Autism or show them your “I Have Autism” i.d. card if you have trouble communicating.
- Stay parked until the Officer says it is okay for you to leave.

When asked to get out of your vehicle:

- Follow the Officer’s directions.
- Keep your hands out of your pockets.
- Let the Officer know if you need accommodations or extra help, e.g. asking for your hands cuffed in front of you.

When driving at night:

- The Officer may use bright lights to see you. Let the Officer know that you have Autism and if you have problems with bright lights.

Need Further Help?
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