

## **Police Mistakes**

Police officers make mistakes. Take a look at this list of typical mistakes and if you think the arresting officer in your matter made one of these mistakes, let your attorney know immediately.

1. Stopping a vehicle on the basis of an anonymous call. An officer can not rely on a phone call to stop you unless the officer also records the name and address for the caller.
2. Your home is protected by the Fourth Amendment. An officer may not follow a driver into his or her residence without an invitation or without enough information to justify the entry.
3. Did the officer see you in physical possession of your car? If not, the arresting officer might have based the arrest on your statements, which is insufficient. An officer may not make an arrest based on the statements of the driver alone; there must be independent evidence to corroborate the statements.
4. Detaining a driver longer than is reasonable to investigate. The constitution does not allow officers to hold you without limit.
5. Stopping a vehicle without reasonable suspicion. An officer can not stop you just because he thinks you are suspicious. The officer must be able to articulate the reasons for the stop.
6. Unless there is a specific traffic ordinance you are violating, such as impeding traffic, it is not lawful for an officer to stop you because the vehicle is stopped in the middle of the street or moving too slowly.
7. Stopping a vehicle based on a misperceived violation of a law. The officer must be right about his interpretation of the law.
8. Improper roadblocks. There are guidelines that must be followed to validate the stop.
9. Stopping a vehicle just to check the driver's license and registration. There must be an actual traffic violation or an articulable suspicion of a crime.
10. The officer must be able to identify that the vehicle they stopped is the one that actually committed the traffic infraction. Officers must be able to convince the Court that they stopped the right car.
11. Stopping a vehicle for no reason at all. It's done. Officers usually do not show up in Court on these.
12. Blocking a vehicle's exit without justification. Officers may not restrict a driver's freedom to leave without a reason.