Helpful Hints
REGARDING
POLICE PROCEDURES

If you have questions,
CALL, EMAIL OR REQUEST A VISIT WITH THE
UNIVERSITY POLICE OR DEAN OF STUDENTS.
Rusty Keyes, Chief of University Police
Bond Hall
118 College Drive #5061
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
rusty.keyes@usm.edu
Office: 601.266.4946
Dispatch: 601.266.4986

Sirena Cantrell, Associate Vice President
for Student Affairs/Dean of Students
R.C. Student Union 220
118 College Drive #5204
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Office: 601.266.6028

The information in this brochure is specific to The
University of Southern Mississippi and is slightly different
from a local municipality/city, but this can be helpful if
taken as guiding behaviors for police officers, as well as
citizens, when they come in contact with each other. The
set of presenting circumstances will impact situations and
scenarios in different ways. Various situations will impact
how the police will act, as well as what tactics they will use.
The important thing for consideration for police officers
and the general public is to present a workable attitude
and tolerance for each other. At all times, remember that
the police officers are sworn to uphold the law and serve
the public. Remember, ATTITUDE, TOLERANCE and
RESPECT are the essentials for best outcomes.

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS
R.C. Cook Union 220
118 College Drive #5204
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Phone: 601.266.6028
Fax: 601.266.6401
The mission of The University Police Department is to enhance the quality of life on campus by working cooperatively within the framework of the United States Constitution to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide for a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, visitors and all other stakeholders that visit our University.

The purpose of this brochure is to inform all persons of expectations regarding traffic stops and filing of reports of complaints. Our police department is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and functions to serve all people within the jurisdiction of the University with respect, fairness and compassion.

If you are pulled over, the police will do the following:

**ASK** for your identification. You know who you are, but the police officer may not.

**USE** a flashlight to illuminate the interior of the vehicle as a safety precaution. As the officer approaches your car, he or she is not sneaking up on you. The officer is following his or her police training to minimize his or her exposure to traffic and to unknown danger from inside the vehicle.

**BACK UP** each other or support another officer's calls; therefore, several officers may appear on the scene. Do not feel threatened or intimidated by this police operation. Service and protection are our primary goals. The officer's supervisor may arrive on the scene to observe his or her actions.

**REMAIN** in the car for a period of time while checking your automobile registration and driving status. This may take a while to complete the procedure of the department.

**MAINTAIN** a professional demeanor and may not be as talkative or friendly as you expect. The officer is not being mean or disrespectful to you. Know that the officer may be dealing with other pressing matters or assignments and that you are not being mistreated.

**University Police Expectations**

**IF AN OFFICER APPROACHES YOU WHILE YOU ARE ON FOOT, YOU SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING:**
- Don't run.
- Be calm.
- Present a good attitude.
- Establish eye contact with the officer to better communicate.
- Listen.
- Give identification, if asked.
- Be cooperative.
- Follow directions.
- Answer truthfully.
- Ask questions, if desired.
- Don't yell, curse or threaten the officer.

**If an officer stops you in your vehicle, you should do the following:**
- Stay in the car unless instructed otherwise.
- Establish eye contact with the officer to better communicate.
- If dark, turn on the interior lights of the automobile.
- Listen and remain calm.
- Be cooperative.
- Keep hands on the steering wheel.
- Provide license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration, if asked.
- Answer truthfully.
- Don’t resist.
- Don’t yell, curse or threaten the officer.
- Ask questions, if desired.
- You have the right to contest state citations before the judge and campus citations before the dean of students.

**To file a complaint,**

CALL THE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 601.266.4986. **ASK TO SPEAK WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE OR THE SUPERVISOR ON DUTY, IF YOU**

**OBSERVE** or witness questionable police action; **WISH** to speak with a supervisor or Chief of Police Rusty Keyes; **WANT** to know police procedures; or **DESIRE** an explanation of University Police procedures and policies.