



### **What can I do about a traffic concern that I have?**

Call Canton Police Department's general business number at 734/394-5400.

Explain your concern to the call taker. Include the location, and days and times of the week the problem is occurring.

The information will be forwarded to the Special Enforcement Unit where an officer will review the information and determine if it will be investigated by the unit or if it will be handled by a road patrol officer.

If the complaint is investigated by the Special Enforcement Unit, an officer will monitor the location for two days, with violations being issued. If a persistent problem is identified by the officer, he will continue to work that location for a longer period of time. You will be notified of the enforcement results by mail.

If your concern is forwarded to the road patrol, it is likely that it is an ongoing complaint worked by the Special Enforcement Unit in the past. You will be sent the results of any recent enforcement action taken by the unit.

## **Department of Public Safety**

1150 S. Canton Center Rd.  
Canton, Michigan 48188-1699

Non-Emergency  
734/394-5400

Public Safety Administration  
734/394-5445

Ordinance Enforcement  
734/394-5335

Records Bureau  
734/394-5410

### **Fire Division**

Fire Department Administration  
734/394-5455

Fire Prevention  
734/394-5456

Fire Station 1  
734/398-5262

Fire Station 2  
734/454-4655

Fire Station 3  
734/394-5330

### **Police Division**

Police Administration  
734/394-5445

Detective Bureau  
734/394-5420

Patrol  
734/394-5401

**For Emergencies  
Dial 911**

# **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**



An informational guide brought to you by  
the Canton Department Of Public Safety



**Mission Statement:**  
*The Canton Police Department is dedicated to providing excellence in the delivery of law enforcement services through a philosophy which promotes creative, proactive policing.*

## Why do we enforce traffic laws?

Annually, traffic accidents cost Canton residents twice as much as criminal incidents. In an effort to reduce the number of deaths and the cost to the community, the Canton Police Department places a high emphasis on traffic enforcement.

Traffic enforcement is used to change driver behavior and reduce the number of traffic accidents in the community. Officers are encouraged to “look beyond the ticket” and realize their efforts will result in a safer community due to more public awareness.

It is a common misconception that traffic citation revenues are used to fund police departments. The Canton Police Department is funded through a special millage; revenue collected from traffic citations does not fund the police department.

## Why am I being stopped?

Vehicles are most commonly stopped for the following reasons:

- Moving violations
- Non-moving violations
- Equipment violations
- Criminal investigations
- Safety or courtesy concerns



## How will I know if I need to stop?

The officer will signal you to stop by:

- Emergency lights and/or siren
- Voice and/or hand signal

## What should I do if I'm stopped?

Please adhere to the following guidelines when you stop to ensure safety for both yourself and the officer:

- Slow down and stop your vehicle as far right off the road as possible
- Keep your seatbelt fastened
- Stay in your vehicle unless instructed otherwise
- Turn interior lights on in the vehicle after dark
- Keep your hands in view, preferably on the steering wheel
- Inform the officer of all intended movements

## What types of required paperwork should I have?

The driver (not necessarily the registered owner) of any vehicle should have the following information:

- A valid driver's license
- Vehicle registration
- Proof of insurance



## What if I don't feel safe stopping?

In most cases, you will be stopped by a uniformed officer in a marked police vehicle. If you don't feel safe you should:

- Slowly drive to the nearest well-lit public place or the Canton Police Department
- Make the officer aware that you are not trying to flee the situation

## Why do officers sit in their car so long during the traffic stop?

The officer must perform the following steps:

- The officer will contact dispatch with the location and type of stop
- Vehicle and driver information is requested through dispatch or the police
- The officer logs the race and gender of driver
- The officer must manually write the citation if a citation is warranted



## I don't agree with the reason I was given a citation; what should I do?

In the event that you do not agree with the reason you were given a citation:

- Note the officer's name, location, and time of the traffic stop
- If your complaint is about the officer: Contact the Canton Police Department and request to speak to a supervisor
- If your complaint is about the citation: Contact the 35th District Court to have your complaint heard by a judge