

# Interacting with Police Officers



A social story for adolescents and youth explaining what to expect when interacting with police officers.

# What is a police officer?

A police officer is someone who works in my community.

Their job is to protect people and keep people safe.



# Where are police?

Police officers help people follow the rules at my school, in my neighborhood, and in many other places.



When police help people follow the rules, they are keeping people safe.

I feel safe when I see a police officer.

# Everyone follows a police officer's directions

It is important to always follow a police officer's directions.



If I do not understand the directions, I will remember to use my calm voice and say, "I don't understand."

# If I cannot use my words, I can...

Everyone has to follow a police officer's directions.

If I do not understand the directions, I will remember to take a deep breath and stay calm.



If I cannot use words, I can use sign language with my hands. The sign in the photos means "Help."

How to make the sign for help: Place an open hand in front of your body. Form a fist with the other hand with the thumb up. Place your first with the thumb up on your palm and lift both together.

# What to do if police are talking to me

When police are talking to me, I will stop what I am doing, look at them, and follow their directions.



If I do not understand what the officer is asking, I can say, "I don't understand" with a calm voice.



# Police in my school (SRO's)

A police officer at my school is called a School Resource Officer, or SRO.

They work at my school to keep students safe.



I may see a school resource officer in the hallway, directing traffic, and even in the lunchroom.

If I need help, I can ask my school resource officer. They are my friend.

# Police in my school (SRO's)

If a school resource officer asks me to do something, it is respectful to follow directions the first time.



I will remember to use my voice and my body in a respectful way when I am talking to an officer.

When I follow an officer's directions, I am making a good choice.



# Police in my school (SRO's)

When a school resource officer is working, they are focused on their job.

If I see my school resource officer in the hallway or in the lunchroom, I can say, "Hello."



If they do not say hello back to me, I will remember they are still my friend.

They are busy keeping friends safe.

I can always ask my school resource officer for help.

# Police in my school (SRO's)

I may see them walking around my school with a serious face.

Or I may see them standing with their arms crossed, intensely focusing on students and teachers.



If I see my school resource officer with a serious face or stance, I will remember that they are still my friend even when they are serious.

If I need help, I can always ask my school resource officer.

# Police in my neighborhood

I may see a police officer working in my neighborhood.

They drive police cars with lights and sirens on them.



I may see them helping with an accident or stopped on the side of the road

with their flashing lights and sirens turned on.

When I see a police car with its flashing lights on, I will remember I am safe.

# Police in my neighborhood

If I see a police car with its flashing lights on, I will remember I am safe.

It is important that I follow directions first, then ask questions.

If no one tells me what to do, I can always be respectful!



I can calmly ask, "What would you like for me to do?" or I can wait for directions.

Police are happy when I am respectful.

I am safe when police are in my neighborhood.

# Police in my neighborhood

When a police officer is working, their body language is different than someone who is not a police officer.



When I see this body language, I will remember police are my friend even if they can't smile or speak to me.

I am safe when police are in my neighborhood.

# Police in my neighborhood

They may stand tall like a soldier, with crossed arms and a serious face.

Or they may stand with their hands on their belt.



When I see this body language, I will remember police are my friend even if they can't smile or speak to me.

I am safe when police are in my neighborhood.



# Security Guards

A police officer that works at a shopping mall or store is called a security guard.

A security guard should be treated with respect just like any other officer.



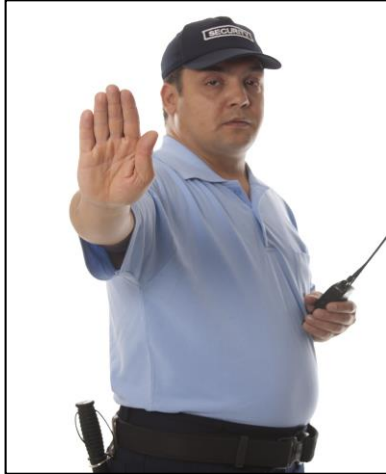
Security guards work hard to keep shoppers safe in malls, stores, and other shopping areas.

When I see a security guard in a store, I will know that I am safe.

# Security Guards

If a security guard asks me a question, it is important to answer in a nice, calm voice.

If I touch something I am not supposed to or walk in an area that is off limits, a security guard will stop me.



If a security guard tells me to do something, I will remember: First I follow directions, then I can ask questions.

I am safe when I see security guards.

# When a police officer stops me

If police or a security guard needs to stop me, they will first stop me with their words.



They might say, "Stop!" or ask "What are you doing?"

I will remember to stay calm and follow directions if police or security guards are speaking to me.

# When a police officer stops me

If I do not hear them say "Stop," they may stop me by touching my arm or shoulder.



I may not like the way this feels, but it is important to stop, take a deep breath, and listen to their directions.

When I follow directions, this helps police and security guards keep me safe.

# If I feel nervous when police are talking to me

It is important to always answer an officer's question, even if I am nervous.



If I feel nervous, I can stop, take a deep breath, and tell myself I am safe because police and security guards are here to help me.

# Emergency Situations

If there is an emergency, I will see police officers and other community helpers.

If I feel scared in an emergency, I can take a deep breath, and know I will be safe.



In an emergency, police officers use their lights and sirens or give commands in a loud voice.

I will remember to follow directions and stay calm.

Police want me to be safe.

I am happy police will keep me safe.



# Emergency Situations

In an emergency, I may have to go somewhere with a police officer.

I may need to ride in their police car, or wait with an officer until a family member arrives.



If I have to go with an officer, I will remember I am safe and that police are here to help me.

I will follow directions first and ask questions later.

I am happy that police will keep me safe.

# Rules to remember

Police officers, school resource officers, and security guards all want me to be safe.  
Here are some rules to remember when I am with any type of officer or security guard.

1. I will stop and listen to their words or directions.
2. I will follow their directions the first time asked. (First follow directions, then I can ask a question)
3. I will never run away from police or security guards.
4. I will use a calm voice and respectful words when speaking.
5. If I cannot use my words, I can use my hands to say, "help."
6. I will tell police that I have an awareness card.

# Awareness Card

If I have my awareness card I can tell an officer, “I have an awareness card.”



_____ 's Awareness Card	
My name is _____	
I have: _____	
I live at: _____	
Emergency Contacts:	
Name: _____	Phone #: _____
Name: _____	Phone #: _____
<b>How to HELP me in an emergency</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

This will help police keep me calm and safe.

\_\_\_\_\_ 's Awareness Card

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

I have: \_\_\_\_\_

I live at: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contacts:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## How to HELP me in an emergency

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