



STOPPED FOR OVI?

HERE IS WHAT WE GENERALLY RECOMMEND.

These are Harmony Law's general recommendations for an Ohio OVI stop. They are not the right answer in every situation. This is general information, not individualized legal advice. **Never physically resist an officer or refuse to comply with a lawful order.**

1



PULL OVER AND BE POLITE.

OUR GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

Pull over. Keep your hands visible. Be polite. Don't argue.

- Provide your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance when required.
- Follow lawful orders.
- Don't lie. Don't fight.
- **Don't physically resist.**

You don't win an OVI case on the side of the road.

2



DON'T ANSWER INVESTIGATIVE QUESTIONS.

OUR GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

Don't answer questions about drinking or driving.

If the officer asks:

- "Where are you coming from?"
- "Have you been drinking?"
- "How much did you drink?"
- "When was your last drink?"
- "Do you feel impaired?"

Don't explain.

Don't make up a story.

Don't try to convince the officer you're sober.

Say:

"Officer, I will comply with your lawful orders, but I don't want to answer questions."

Then stop talking about the investigation.

3



DO NOT TAKE FIELD SOBRIETY TESTS.

OUR GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

Do not take field sobriety tests.

That includes:

- Following a pen or finger with your eyes
- Walking heel-to-toe
- Standing on one leg
- Roadside balance or coordination exercises
- Other roadside sobriety exercises

Say:

"I respectfully decline to perform field sobriety tests."

If the officer tells you something is a lawful order rather than asking for your consent, **do not physically resist the officer.** These tests can create evidence that may be used against you. Our general recommendation is simple: **don't help create that evidence.**

4



DO NOT CONSENT TO SEARCHES.

OUR GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

Do not consent to a search.

If the officer asks to search your:

- Car
- Bags
- Phone
- Other property

Say:

"I do not consent to any searches."

That's it.

Do not physically interfere with a search. If police search anyway, let your attorney determine later whether the search was lawful.

5



BREATH, BLOOD, URINE OR ORAL-FLUID TEST?

THIS IS DIFFERENT.

OUR GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

If you believe the test may produce an incriminating result, you should generally decline the chemical test.

- Refusing a chemical test can result in an immediate administrative license suspension and other legal consequences.
- Your prior OVI or refusal history, the type of test requested, and other circumstances can materially affect the consequences.
- There is no one-size-fits-all answer, and this may not be the right choice in every situation.
- If you have the opportunity to speak with an Ohio OVI attorney before deciding, do so.



Call or text Harmony Law before making the decision.

6



ARRESTED?

OUR GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

Ask for a lawyer and stop talking about the case.

Say:

"I am invoking my right to remain silent. I want an attorney."

Then stop discussing the case.

- Don't explain.
- Don't bargain.
- Don't tell the officer your side.
- Don't try to talk your way out of the arrest.

**THE ENTIRE GUIDE
IN 15 SECONDS**



- 1 Pull over and be polite.
- 2 Provide your license, registration, and insurance.
- 3 Don't answer investigative questions.
- 4 Don't take field sobriety tests.
- 5 Don't consent to searches.

- 6 Don't lie.
- 7 Don't argue.
- 8 Don't physically resist.
- 9 Chemical test request? If you might fail, our general recommendation is to decline.
- 10 Arrested? Ask for a lawyer and stop talking about the case.

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YOU NEED IT.**

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to your phone now.**

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- ✓ Harmony Law's phone number
- ✓ Call or text access to an Ohio OVI attorney



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614-212-4421

AN OHIO OVI ATTORNEY

