

corruption
watch



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



HOW DO I REPORT A CRIME?

When reporting a crime at a police station, you should be attended to by a police official who will interview you, take a statement, open a case docket and give you a case number.

- The crime will be investigated and the detective assigned to the case must keep you updated.
- You should be treated with respect, and communicated with in a language you can understand.

If you are a victim of domestic violence:

- You should be treated with special care.
- You should be treated with regard for your dignity and you should not be blamed for the crime.
- Your statement should be taken in privacy.
- The South African Police Service should ensure that a medical officer collects and records any medical evidence in support of a criminal charge.
- You may apply for a protection order.
- Where possible, police should help you access medical attention, shelter and victim counselling.

If you are a victim of rape:

- If you are a female, you can ask to speak to a female officer.
- You should be taken to a private trauma room to give a statement.
- You should be taken for a medical examination, usually at a hospital, to collect forensic evidence.



WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN AT A TRAFFIC STOP?

- You may be pulled over by a police officer for a routine check of the vehicle and driver, for committing a traffic offence, if your vehicle is suspected to be stolen, if you are suspected to be involved in criminal activity or if the vehicle is suspected to contain contraband.
- Police can check your driver's license, identification, vehicle's identification and the car's roadworthiness.
- Police can search your person or your vehicle with a warrant, or if they have reason to believe that you are conducting illegal activity. A body search can only be conducted by a police officer who is the same gender as you.
- A K78 roadblock is authorised by the national police commissioner, and is usually set up in order to find a specific vehicle or criminal. You may ask to see written authorisation for the roadblock, which includes the date, duration and purpose of the roadblock.
- If an officer says that you have outstanding fines, you cannot be asked to pay them on the spot. You can be detained if there is a warrant of arrest.
- You cannot refuse to be breathalysed.

What can I do if I feel unsafe?

- Take note of the police vehicle registration and identification code, and the date and time.
- Put your hazard lights on, slow down, and ask the police officer to follow you to the nearest police station.
- You can film the police, and they may not confiscate or destroy your equipment.



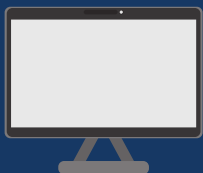
GENERAL POLICE CONDUCT

- A police officer must adhere to rules and orders, and must not behave in an ill-disciplined manner. The public should be treated with utmost respect, and an officer should rise when approached by a member of the public.
- A police station must be manned at all times.
- A police officer may not eat or smoke in public while in uniform.
- A police officer may not enter a place that sells liquor while in uniform, unless it is in the exercise of policing duties.
- Not all police officials wear name tags, but you have a right to ask an officer to identify themselves by asking to see their appointment card. If they refuse, you can request to speak to their supervisor or commander.



How do I report police misconduct?

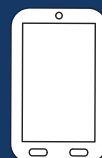
- Misconduct can be reported at a police station, where your complaint will be noted in a register. The station commander should take disciplinary steps against the member involved. The report may also be referred to the **Independent Complaints Directorate**.
- If you cannot report misconduct at a local police station, you can contact the **National Service Complaints Call Centre** on **0800 333 177** or send an e-mail to **complaintsnodalpoint@saps.gov.za**.
- You can also report misconduct to the **Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID)**, by filling in a complaint reporting form which can be obtained from any IPID office or from their website **www.ipid.co.za**. You can also send them an e-mail at **complaints@ipid.gov.za** or call them on **012 399 0000**.
- You can report incidents of police corruption to **Corruption Watch** on our **contact information below**:



www.corruptionwatch.org.za



011 242 3900



WhatsApp +2772 013 5569

