

ABOUT THE UWF POLICE DEPARTMENT

The University of West Florida Police Department's role is to advance UWF's mission, vision, and priorities by providing a safe environment through professional service to the community. We will meet the challenge of providing these services by basing our thoughts and actions on shared values.

Safety programs and mechanical alarm systems cannot be fully effective against crime without the cooperation of the citizens they are designed to protect. Alertness, common-sense precautions, and concern for fellow students, faculty, and employees are keys to preventing crime and helping us ensure that experiences at UWF are positive and enjoyable.

Building 94
11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32514
Phone: 850.474.2415
Email: uwfpolice@uwf.edu
uwf.edu/police



Questions/Compliments/Complaints

If you have a question about procedures or a complaint about your treatment, contact the University of West Florida Police Department and ask to speak with a supervisor. You may also send a letter of compliment if you feel the officer was particularly helpful in your situation. Compliments or complaints about the Police Department's personnel conduct can be made by utilizing the information provided within this brochure and/or located on the departmental website at uwf.edu/police.

Summary of Complaint Procedures

Telephone the University of West Florida Police Department Assistant Chief Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 850.474.2415. Nights, weekends, and holidays call 850.474.2415 to contact the Shift Supervisor who will see that the matter is properly addressed.

Depending upon the circumstances, the incident will either be handled by a supervisor, informally by an Internal Affairs Investigator, or formally by Internal Affairs. If your case is assigned to the officer's supervisor for investigation, the supervisor will contact you to try to resolve the situation. If the case is to be handled formally, an Internal Affairs Investigator will complete a thorough report regarding the complaint.

All formal investigative reports are reviewed by the Chief of Police for approval and recommendations. Formal Investigation Disposition: You will be notified of the final disposition by mail.



University
Police Department
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

Biased Policing

The mission of the University of West Florida Police Department is to support the values of the University of West Florida in enhancing the quality of life and academic goals in a safe and secure educational environment.



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Biased Policing

The purpose of this brochure is to clearly state that racial and ethnic profiling within the University of West Florida Police Department is an unacceptable practice and will not be condoned.

Biased policing is the unequal treatment of any person including stopping, questioning, detention, or arrest on the basis of their racial or ethnic characteristics, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

Should you encounter a situation where you believe you were stopped by an officer based on your race, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, physical handicap, religion or other belief system, then **please see the back of this brochure for the University of West Florida Police Department's Complaint Procedures.**

Why Do Officers Stop People?

There are many different reasons why you might be stopped by the University Police Department. Whatever the reason, the officer needs your cooperation:

1. The officer may want to warn you about a potentially dangerous situation.
2. You may have committed a traffic violation.
3. Your vehicle may match the description of one used in criminal act.
4. The officer might think you are in trouble and need help.
5. You may have witnessed a crime.

If you are stopped by an officer while driving, you may feel confused, anxious or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can also be stressful and dangerous for the officer as well. Many law enforcement officers are killed each year and thousands more are injured in traffic-related incidents.

For example, each year approximately half of all line-of-duty officer deaths were related to traffic incidents. Florida Statute 316.126 requires that all drivers shall yield the right of way to emergency vehicles. Drivers are to immediately pull over parallel to the nearest edge, stop and remain in a stopped position until the emergency vehicle has passed.

REMEMBER: Be courteous and cooperative in any stop by the Police.

What To Do When An Officer Stops You:

- When you see the emergency lights and/or hear the siren, remain calm, slow down and pull over in a safe location off the roadway.
- Do not exit your vehicle unless asked to do so. This is for safety reasons.
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel so the officer can see them.
- Inform the officer of any weapons in your vehicle and their location. Do not reach or point to the location.
- Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floorboard, rear seat or passenger side of the vehicle.
- Comply with the officers' request to see your driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration. Florida law requires you to carry these with you.
- If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.
- If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet and cooperate with instructions. You, as the operator, are solely responsible for your vehicle and its occupants.
- If asked to sign a citation, do so. It is not an admission of guilt. Refusal could result in an arrest.
- You have the right to politely deny a request by a law enforcement officer to search your car; however, if probable cause is present, the officer has the right to search your vehicle without your consent.