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LIVING STONES

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CUR INTER VIVOS QUÆRITIS MORTUOS? \*

## STOPPED BY THE COPS?

A six-point guide to staying in control of the chit-chat

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The following tips are based on advice from a US attorney: six points to memorise if you are subjected to a random stop in the street. You see, the procedure here in Britain is not much different from that of the US Law Enforcement brigade, provided we are always living above the statute 'rules' and that we remember

- 'they' are here to serve us,
- that we can remain calm and not be confrontational,
- speaking what is needed, avoiding the 'conversation' trap

### 1. THE CLARIFYER

They say '**Will you step out of the car for a moment**'?

- You say - "*Are you asking me or ordering me to step out of the vehicle? I'd prefer to remain in my vehicle, officer.*"

### 2. THE RECORD MAKER

If s/he says '**That's an order**' and is becoming aggressive in tone

- You ask - "*Officer, what is the lawful or legal basis for this 'order'?*"

### 3. THE ANNOUNCED EXIT

Should s/he persist in demanding that you obey and comply

- You say - "*I am complying under protest, my hands will remain visible at all times.*"

When you get out of the vehicle, always close the door behind you: this discourages any tendency to look for 'reasons' to search and detain you.

### 4. THE SHIELD

You are advised to say at this point - "*Officer, I am invoking my right to remain silent*" and do so. Depending how they persist in trying to get you involved in any chit-chat, you need to be ready to state - you may also need:



## 5. THE WALL

- *“ I do not consent to any searches. There is no crime happening here and so, no need for you to detain me any longer”*

Now, we all know that corporate ‘policing’ is becoming more about ‘might is right’ these days and is less often based on any true ‘authority’. It is wise, if possible, to have some form of record of what is passing between ‘them’ and you (a second man or woman in the vehicle should be ready to film the proceedings.)

If you have remained calm, you should now be in a position to move to point 6.

## 6. THE EXIT

You need to treat the incident as complete at this point, so, be ready to ask:

- *“Am I free to leave”?* If the answer is ‘yes’, give a polite -
- *“Thank you, officer”* and move on.

If the officer says ‘No’ your response is:

- *“Officer, I do not consent to any searches and I would now like to speak to my lawyer”*

Now, we all may have experienced the bad outcome of these random stops. Just remember, you do have the right to take lawful advice: your lack of aggression and the use of these words will stand you in good stead in any further developments or if they try to drag you into an administrative ‘court’. All of which assumes that you do have a good lawful advisor’s phone number handy..

:grant-andrew© *sui juris*

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'Living Stones', Suite 303, 88 Queen Street, Sheffield, Yorkshire, England [S1 2FW]

- With apologies to Doctor Luke - 24.5 - why seek ye the DEAD among the living?!