

POCKET GUIDE

Traffic Stops in Jalisco, Mexico

1. When getting pulled over

- **Pull over safely:** Find a well-lit area. If it's dark, turn on your hazard lights and drive slowly to a nearby gas station or store.
- **Stay calm:** Turn off the engine, keep your hands on the steering wheel, and roll down the window just enough to talk.
- **Have documents ready:** Driver's License, Vehicle Registration (Tarjeta de Circulación), and Insurance.

2. The Language Barrier & Safety Check

- **Call a Spanish speaker:** If you don't speak Spanish, put a trusted local or translator on speakerphone immediately.
- **Clarify the situation:** Have them ask the officer if you are receiving a traffic ticket or if it's a safety warning (e.g., road closed ahead, flat tire, or broken tail light).

3. During the interaction

- **Officer ID:** State Traffic Police (Policía Vial) must show their name and badge number.
- **Reason for stop:** They must state the exact traffic violation before asking for documents.
- **Right to record:** It is your constitutional right to record (video/audio) any public servant in a public space.

4. If they attempt extortion (ask for a bribe)

Stay calm and say firmly:

"Oficial, por favor elabore la multa" (Officer, please write the ticket).

Remember: A traffic ticket can be legally challenged and canceled by a lawyer; an extortion cannot.

Start recording & state out loud: Time, location, patrol number, and the officer's name.

Call a trusted contact on speakerphone:

"I was stopped by patrol [number] at [location], I am leaving the call open."

Call 911 if there is abuse or aggression:

"I want to report an attempted extortion by a public servant."

5. What the officer CANNOT do

- Ask for money to avoid a ticket.
- Keep your documents without writing a ticket.
- Retain your license plates or registration card.
- Force you out of the vehicle without legal cause.

6. Who can fine you in Guadalajara (AMG)?

■ **State Traffic Police (Policía Vial):** Authorized to issue traffic tickets.

■ **Municipal Police (Policía Municipal):** Can stop you for general security checks, but CANNOT issue traffic tickets.