

## BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

### STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

#### AID TO MOTORISTS

Reviewed by: Asst. Chief Gregory Scott	Effective Date: September 22, 1995
Authorized by: Chief Clay Wheeler	Revision Date: May 28, 2019

#### PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Bloomington Police Department to assist motorists in need whenever possible. Officers should be alert for motorists in need and whenever possible stop and provide assistance or notify dispatch of the location of the motorist so that another officer, who is available can be dispatched to offer assistance.

#### PROCEDURE

The types of assistance which may be provided to a motorist in need include the following:

1. Providing information or directions
2. Providing protection to stranded motorists
3. Assisting the motorist in contacting someone if needed
4. Assisting the motorist in calling for assistance with a flat tire
5. Assisting the motorist in calling for assistance with moving the vehicle from the roadway

Officers will not transport gasoline or other flammable liquids or unlock vehicles. Officers will assist by contacting a tow company of the motorists choosing that is equipped to offer these services. Officers may, with supervisor approval transport citizens for the purposes of obtaining assistance or to remove them from an unsafe conditions. Officers may search persons before providing transportation and may require all bags or baggage to be stored in the trunk of the police vehicle during transport. Officers will adhere to the body worn camera MOU, in car camera and transporting procedures. (SOP 5.11, 1.24, Body Worn Camera MOU).

The police vehicles emergency lights will be activated when an officer is assisting or standing by with a stranded motorist on the roadway. Officers will remain with the stranded motorist until the vehicle is moved from the roadway or the officer's assistance is no longer needed.

While assisting a stranded motorist, officers should be aware of the possibility of criminal activity and take appropriate actions. Examples are:

1. Unlicensed or suspended/revoked driver
2. Driver who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs
3. Driver who does not have permission to possess or use the vehicle
4. The vehicle is unsafe to operate on the roadway

## **TRANSIENT MOTORIST**

The Bloomington Police Department budgets a fixed amount of funds for assisting transient motorists and families who experience unexpected problems while traveling through the community. When a member of the department is made aware that a motorist is in need of such assistance, the following steps should be taken after receiving approval from a command officer.

The Bloomington Police Department has agreements with Pilot Oil and Red Roof Inn. These businesses allow reasonable charges to be made for gasoline, food and overnight lodging. The department also has an agreement with Trailways Bus System to provide one-way bus tickets with payment made at the time of purchase. An officer who makes contact with the needy party, or an officer who is sent to meet with the party, will determine the need of assistance.

To purchase a bus ticket, the supervisor on duty will request a form of payment from the Chief's office manager. The assigned officer will escort the needy party to the bus station and purchase the approved ticket. The officer will stay with the party until they have boarded the bus and it has departed.

Parties suspected of perpetrating a ruse may be denied funds. Conditions which are the result of criminal activity or poor planning may result in assistance being denied. Parties should be checked to verify that they are not wanted fugitives or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Extenuating and mitigating circumstances may be considered.

Officers will meet with the employee of the business involved, arrive at relevant decisions, and sign appropriate paperwork related to the charges. Officers will forward the paperwork and an explanatory email to the shift supervisor and the Chief's office manager.