

Greeting The Police

You do not want to be the threatening person with the pistol when the police arrive. Make certain you greet the police **UNARMED**. *Do not have a firearm [or anything else] in your hand.* Have your firearm holstered. It is best not to have anything in your hands. Greet the police with your empty palms facing them, make no sudden movements and **follow the officer's orders/directions exactly as they are given without hesitation or debate.**



The system is keyed on the assumption that whomever calls 911 first gets to be the victim. There is only one other role open in the play and that is the perpetrator. The perpetrator is lying in a puddle of blood doing a remarkably convincing imitation of a victim. Therefore, you, the victim, may, by default become the perpetrator, if you don't make the call to 911.

"Officer that's the man who attacked me, he may still have a weapon, I don't know if there are any more."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 point checklist ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1. "Officer this man attacked me."
2. "Officer I will sign the complaint"
3. "Officer the evidence is here"
4. "Officer the witnesses are there"
5. "Officer, you will have my full cooperation in 24 hours after I have spoken with counsel."

If you don't point out evidence it may disappear. Cartridge casings are easy to blow away with wind, rain; be trapped in treads of tires and shoes/boots. Spent brass will literally blow across an icy street or wash down a sewer opening.



First impressions do matter, beginning with the 911 call through your contact with the dispatcher and responding officers. Frequently, police make both audio and video recordings of what you do, as might any witness at the scene. They also use available security footage.

When making the 911 call, clearly state why you are calling – there is an assault in progress, "in progress" being the important phrase. Explain that you are armed (or not) and where your pistol will be when first responders arrive. Give a full description of yourself and advise if EMS is needed.

The dispatcher/call taker will ask many questions. Answer them to the best of your ability without guessing or speculating. Do not hang up; leave the line open. Make certain you give the dispatcher an accurate description of yourself – a basic description, height/weight, the clothing you are wearing, color and type of clothing, hair color, hat, shoes, everything you want the responding officers to know when they arrive to highlight that you are the victim. The responding officers have a split second to determine the actors in this play. You want to make certain you give an accurate description to the dispatcher/call taker, so she, in turn can give an accurate description to those responding to the scene.



Now, determine what you want to do with your pistol. **It cannot be in your hands.** Secure it before the police arrive. Holstering your pistol is the quickest, easiest and safest.

While you may contemplate unloading and grounding, even though it is visibly unloaded and away from you, this is problematic. Your fight-or-flight reaction may linger and physiologically you may begin to shake, making grounding problematic. Also, you may not physically be able to unload your pistol safely.

If you disarm yourself, you do not know what will happen next. You do not know if there are additional threats. You may need to move at the scene; you should be moving to cover. Had you disarmed yourself, you would be distancing yourself from your grounded gun. There is also a possibility of your gun “growing legs”. A bystander may take possession of your grounded pistol either as a souvenir or to aid the perpetrator or use your pistol against you. Another perpetrator may use your pistol against you as well.

One other thought: do not be concerned about damaging your pistol. You must treat that pistol as no longer having any monetary value. It becomes evidence once you have utilized it as a tool of defense. It was your insurance policy or your tool of defense. Its usefulness has been expended.

When the police arrive, they will issue commands. These are exactly that – commands, not suggestions. You must comply with their commands exactly and expediently as they are issued. These are not discussion points. Your life may depend upon you following these commands exactly and promptly. Remember, they have been summoned to an event where there is an adversarial situation with an armed combatant. The police arrive and YOU are the one with a firearm! Connect the dots. These officers want to go home alive at the end of their shift. You must comply with their commands immediately and exactly as they are issued – no discussion!



Don't hesitate, argue or stall. Police officers are trained to take control of situations. If you seem to resist, they will assume you are uncooperative and possibly a threat. All movements must be slow and precise; keep your palms visible at all times. The more cooperative and rationale you appear, the more likely they will be to see you as the innocent victim you are.

You need to greet the police with your palms visible and empty. Even having a cell phone or flashlight in your palms can be grounds for the officer to shoot you. He may possibly mistake what is in your hands as a weapon. Remember, most of these shootings happen during times of low light. The officer arrives at the scene, he has been told there is a subject with a gun. His view of you is having something in your hands which appears to be threatening. He **WILL** take appropriate action immediately. It does not matter that it was not a gun. If the officer, with his limited view and his limited sight picture even

remotely believes what he sees is some type of a weapon (or something shiny or reflective), he will act accordingly and you may become the target of his firearm.

In numerous instances, police officers have shot off-duty and non-uniformed officers, despite the fact that he was displaying a badge while holding his gun. Many force-on-force exercises confirm this is a frequent mistake. Paper targets fared even worse, with targets being shot in both the badge and the gun.

Another item to be considered is your appearance; more specifically how you are dressed when the police arrive. The victim's appearance is the first observance of the responding officers. Police officers are trained observers. They must observe or profile. If someone does not fit the normal stereotype, if they look like a freak, they will be treated as a freak until proven otherwise. If someone is observed as being some type of a "badass" they will be treated like that very stereotype they have been attempting to emulate. While you may in fact be the "good guy in the white hat" unless you look the part, you will be treated as you are observed before you have any opportunity to make any verbal explanation. Make sure you wear your hat appropriately, not backwards like some type of mental incompetent who does not know how to put on a hat properly. Dressing for success works very well as a defensive tactic as well.

After summoning emergency services and after ascertaining that there are no additional apparent threats, reholster your pistol. Keep aware of your surroundings and prepare to be interviewed by the first responders. The situation is not over until you are no longer at the scene of the crime.

The police will be wary of everyone and everything. This is their job. They are not on anyone's side. Their position is that of law enforcement. Follow their commands promptly and exactly as stated. The officers' adrenaline levels will be as high as yours. Do not escalate their levels by your uncooperative behavior. While you want to be truthful and be helpful by answering their questions, you only want to give your personal information and description of the attacker. You do not want to give a narrative of the events. These specific details are discussed only with your attorney. Anyone at the scene or anyone with whom you have any conversations are considered witnesses and may be summoned to testify in any criminal or civil proceedings. Remember after a traumatic experience, you may have not have the ability to remember exactly what happened. While you would never knowingly omit or lie about facts that occurred, you may not recollect exactly what occurred. By making a statement prematurely, you may be actually making a false statement. This is why you limit your statements to the police to the five statements enumerated below:



1. **"Officer this man attacked me."**
2. **"Officer I will sign the complaint"**
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