



Minneapolis Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Number:
9-100

Volume Nine – Enforcement Policies

Adult Stops, Searches, and Seizures

9-102 Levels of Encounters Between the Police and the Public

(xx/xx/xx)

I. Levels of Public-Police Encounters

- A. There are four levels of public-police encounters. The following four levels are listed from least to most intrusive:
1. Voluntary contacts, including field interviews.
 2. Investigative detentions.
 3. Probable cause stops.
 4. Arrests.
- B. Generally, as an encounter becomes more intrusive the law requires members to have a higher and more significant legal basis for the intrusion.
1. For voluntary contacts, so long as the encounter remains voluntary and does not become a seizure, no particularized legal basis is necessary.
 2. For investigative detentions, because they involve a limited seizure of a person or people, reasonable articulable suspicion (RAS) is required (see P&P 9-103 and P&P 9-105).
 3. For probable cause (PC) stops, because they involve a seizure of a person or people based on a heightened threshold justification, there must be a fair probability that a crime has occurred or is occurring, and that the person has committed it, or that the person has committed a traffic violation (P&P 9-107).
 4. Arrests, which constitute a sustained seizure of a person, require probable cause that the person has committed or is committing a crime.

Glossary

Arrest: Taking a person into custody, which may be imposed by force or may result from a person submitting to a member. An arrest is a restraint of greater scope or duration than an investigative stop or detention. An arrest requires probable cause that a crime was committed or

is being committed. This includes booking, citing in lieu of booking, and releasing pending charges.

Field Interview: A voluntary contact during which a member may ask questions or try to gain information about possible criminal activity while making it clear that the person is free to leave and not obligated to answer the member's questions.

Investigative Detention: If a reasonable person under the circumstances would believe they are not free to leave, but that person is not under formal arrest, an investigative detention has occurred (sometimes known as a pedestrian, vehicle, or traffic stop), based on reasonable articulable suspicion that the person stopped is committing, is about to commit, or has committed a crime, petty misdemeanor, or traffic offense. See P&P 9-104 for factors that may affect whether a person would believe they are free to leave. See P&P 9-105 regarding investigative detention requirements.

Probable Cause (PC): Where an objective assessment of the articulable facts and circumstances, taken as a whole and known to the member at the time, would lead a reasonable member to believe the following:

- To effectuate an arrest or issue a citation: That a particular person has committed or is committing a specific crime or a traffic violation.
- To search: That evidence of a specific crime, contraband, or a person subject to arrest is located in a particular place.

Probable cause (PC) requires stronger evidence and greater certainty than reasonable articulable suspicion, and cannot be based on mere speculation or a simple assertion of criminal activity.

Reasonable Articulable Suspicion (RAS): A well-founded suspicion based on specific, objective, articulable facts taken together with the member's training and experience that a person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime. Reasonable articulable suspicion (RAS) cannot be based on mere speculation or a simple assertion of criminal activity. See P&P 9-103 for more information on RAS.

Voluntary Contact: A consensual and non-investigative encounter between a member and a person, with the intent of engaging in a casual or non-investigative conversation (e.g., chatting with a local business owner or resident). The person is free to leave or decline any request by the member at any point.