

Ask a Cop Submission
By Sgt. Brent Coombs
Glendale Police Department

August 10, 2010

Question: With the new law in effect involving carrying a concealed weapon, if I'm stopped by a Police Officer, do I have to let the Officer know that I'm carrying concealed?

Answer: The short answer is "Yes." Now the explanation; if you are "contacted" by a Police Officer and he or she asks whether you are carrying a concealed weapon, the law requires that you tell the truth. If you are carrying concealed and don't admit to it, you are in violation of the law and could be arrested.

I used the term "contacted", which in this context is defined as a lawful traffic or criminal investigation stop, arrest, detention or investigatory stop where an officer has reasonable suspicion that an offense has been or is about to be committed.

One final point, there is another aspect of this legislation you should be aware of. The law provides that any Police Officer has the right to temporarily take custody of the firearm you are carrying during a lawful stop or detention. Remember, this is just for the duration of time the officer is dealing with the situation related to your stop, at which point the firearm will be returned to you. If you would like to review the laws related to concealed carry, you can refer to Arizona Revised Statutes 13-3102 and 13-3112.