

Traffic Stop Protocol

- **Appearance** - drivers with MCS might be wearing a face mask or respirator. This cannot be removed without dire consequences, so an officer must be patient and listen carefully. The MCS driver might appear to be overdressed for the weather conditions, i.e., heavy clothing in warm weather. The typical MCS patient has an extremely low body temperature and must wear many layers of clothing. The MCS driver might be breathing oxygen from a tank. The interior of the vehicle might be covered with paper or foil barrier material or the entire dashboard might be removed to reduce plastic and other car odors. The MCS driver might have medical items such as syringes, vials, supplement pills and capsules. As the driver is most likely going to or coming from a medical appointment, ask to see a doctor's statement or other identification to verify legitimate medical cause for these items.
- **Response** - if an officer stops an MCS driver, it is most likely that the driver had to avoid exhaust fumes by speeding up to pass or by driving under speed. After even a brief chemical exposure, the driver can be cognitively impaired. If his speech is slow or odd, do not assume intoxication. MCS patients do not consume alcohol. Ask to see his MCS identification and do not force him to roll down the window or exit the vehicle. Follow the MCS guidelines set forth by your police department.
- **Dangerous exposure substances** - the MCS driver cannot roll down the window for an officer because of possible exposure to his: aftershave, cologne, scented hair and bodycare products, dry-cleaned clothing, scented laundry products, carbonless copy ticket pad. Exposure to any of these chemicals can cause sudden death. Rolling down the window and contaminating the carefully created car "oasis" with outside air can produce the same effect. Follow your department guidelines in communicating with an MCS driver.