



# WATCH YOUR CAR (WYC) PROGRAM

**INDEX CODE: 1610.1**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-02-11**

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## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this directive will be to provide all officers of this department with:

- A. Background of the "Watch Your Car (WYC)" Program;
- B. Implementation of the WYC program; and
- C. Uniform procedures for taking enforcement action under the WYC program.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

The WYC program is a nationwide auto-theft deterrent program funded through the VIPER Grant. The program involves the voluntary participation of vehicle owners who do not normally operate their motor vehicles during the designated hours.

## **III. PROCEDURES**

The registered owner of a vehicle may fill out an application to have their vehicle participate in the program. The application forms will be available at the district stations. The completed applications will be returned to designated locations during scheduled WYC program registration hours.

### **A. The Registration Process**

The Police Officer or Reserve Officer staffing the registration area will:

1. Review the application for accuracy and completeness.
2. Verify the applicant's identity and that the applicant is the sole registered owner of the vehicle (or that all registered owners are present and agreeable.)
3. Answer any additional questions the applicant might have regarding the WYC program.
4. Provide the applicant with the waiver form.
5. Witness the applicant's signature on the waiver form, ensuring that all registered owners sign.
6. Affix the WYC reflective decals to the applicant's vehicle. A 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" silver and blue rectangular decal will be placed on the exterior of the front windshield in the bottom corner on the driver's side of the vehicle above the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" silver and blue circular decal will be placed on the exterior of the rear windshield in the bottom corner on the driver's side of the vehicle. These decals indicate that the vehicle is registered in the program.
7. Return the original application and signed waiver to the Crime Prevention Unit.

**B. Waiver**

This form will be filled out and signed by the registered owner(s) of a motor vehicle and contain the following:

1. Agreement to participate in the WYC program;
2. A statement that the vehicle is not normally used during the designated hours.
3. Permission for any police officer to effect an “investigation stop” on that vehicle if it is observed being operated between the designated hours.
4. Acknowledgment that it is their (the registered owner(s) of the vehicle) responsibility to:
  - a. Warn any persons they allow to operate their vehicle that the vehicle is subject to being stopped by the police under the terms of the WYC program;
  - b. Acknowledge that the police actions taken during the investigative stop will include the necessary precautions to protect police officers approaching a potentially stolen vehicle;
  - c. Indicate an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of volunteering to participate in the WYC program;
  - d. Indicate an understanding that there may be circumstances where a police officer may observe their vehicle being driven during the designated hours but does not or cannot effect an investigative stop; and
  - e. Agree to notify the Crime Prevention Unit of any change in address or telephone number while participating in the WYC program.
  - f. Remove the decal from the vehicle and notify the Anne Arundel County Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit, before transferring ownership of the vehicle or withdrawing from participation in the program.

**C. Crime Prevention Unit**

The Crime Prevention Unit will receive and maintain records of all vehicles participating in the WYC program. Upon receipt of the completed and signed application and waiver forms, the Crime Prevention Unit will review them for accuracy and completeness. Participant information will be forwarded to the Maryland State Police who will log it into the Motor Vehicle Administration’s database.

**D. Communications Section**

During designated hours, the Teletype Operator will be responsible for notifying the officers requesting information on a vehicle if it is registered under the WYC program.

**E. Patrol Officers**

An officer who observes a vehicle registered under the WYC program being operated during the designated hours may reasonably suspect that the vehicle is being operated without the owner’s permission and may legally stop and question the driver.

**F. Designated Hours**

0100 hours to 0500 hours daily.

**IV. PROPONENT UNIT: Community Relations *Division*.**

**V. CANCELLATION:** This directive cancels Index Code 1610.1, dated 05-01-01.