

It Isn't Always as it Seems

- A white woman, out with her significant other, a black man, and her nine year old daughter in the back seat. The cops were doing a “meet and greet” along one of the city’s busy streets to establish a presence, run plates and see what showed up. (This street was known as a place to pick up drugs and sex.) The police flipped on their lights to pull over the couple and according to the couple in mediation, they were impatient and followed very closely as the couple looked for a place to stop.
- When the officer came to the driver’s window, the man was very indignant and reacted poorly. Both the man and woman assumed the cops pulled them over (racially profiled them) because she was white, he was black. They were sure the officers assumed some sort of illegal activity.
- When the man reacted angrily, the officers pulled him out of the car and cuffed him. The woman was irate, overreacted and was also cuffed. (The couple didn’t behave well).
- The daughter in the back seat was crying and traumatized, she was never going to trust the cops again.
- They met in mediation and discussed the situation, the purpose of “meet and greet”, and the daughter in the backseat. As they discussed what happened the man and woman apologized for overreaching. The officers admitted they could have taken time to explain and maybe not gone to the cuffs immediately.
- The officers talked specifically to the nine year old, and said they were sorry she was afraid. They were here to help people, not scare them. She warmed up and said she was now OK and not afraid of the police.