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Respect is the key in any relationship. Taking the time to understand each other builds a positive foundation in a relationship. This guide is one more step to building respect. And the most important thing you need to understand when you come in contact with a police officer is respect.

You can make choices about how you interact with police. Think about how you would want to be treated if you are in the police officer's place. We all want to be treated with common courtesy and respect. If you and the police are respectful, both of you are going to get a better response from each other.

What you may think is unfair or believe to be harrassment may be law enforcement procedures necessary for the conduct of an investigation. Do not jump to conclusions. You can always assert your rights and still be respectful if you feel differently about the explanation.

Also remember that you can come to us if you need any sort of help. This is true even if you have had bad interactions with the police in the past. Either through enforcement, protection, advice or by directing you to the right resources and channels - we will help you. Our job is to keep everyone safe and this includes you.



MESSAGE FROM THE SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The men and women of the Seattle Police Department take great pride in providing a safe community for the people of Seattle - especially the young people of this city.

We are here to protect and serve you, your family and friends.

This guide is to provide you with useful information about police practices and help you make smart decisions when you come in contact with a police officer for any reason.

Please take the time to read it, share it with your family and friends. Together, we can strengthen our relationship and break down barriers that may exist between police officers, youth and others - helping all of us to keep our community safe.



OUR POLICY SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS SHALL:

- Be courteous and professional.
- Introduce themselves to you and state the reason for the stop as soon as it is safe and practical. In traffic stops, they shall do the same before asking the driver for the license and registration.
- Ensure the stop is no longer than necessary to take appropriate action for the known or suspected offense, and that you understand the purpose of the stop.
- Answer any questions you may have, including explaining the options for traffic citation disposition, if relevant.
- Provide name and badge number, when reasonable and feasible to do so, in writing or on a business card.



OUR REQUEST OF YOU IF YOU ARE CONTACTED BY THE POLICE:

- Follow the directions you are given.
- Keep your hands visible, and avoid sudden movements. Police won't know if you are trying to hide something, going for a weapon or are just nervous.
- Do not jump to conclusions.
- Wait and listen for the reason you are being stopped.
- When reasonable and feasible to do so, you may ask for the name and badge number of the police officer.
- Understand that your attitude may send a message - either good or bad.

POLICE TERMS

Arrest Warrant

A written order directing the arrest of an individual.

Crime

An act in violation of local, state and federal penal laws.

Custody

An immediate charge and control over a person by a police officer.

Informal Contact

A voluntary conversation between a police officer and individual who chooses to engage in the conversation.

Infraction

A violation of law not punishable by imprisonment. Minor traffic offenses are generally considered infractions.

Investigative Detention, Terry Stop

When a police officer needs reasonable suspicion to stop and question a person on foot or in a vehicle for a short period of time.

Probable Cause

When police officer have reasons to believe a person has committed a crime.

Protective Frisk, Pat Down

When a police officer has articulable and reasonable suspicion to believe the person is armed, and pats down a person's outer clothing or their personal possessions to check for weapons.

Questioning

When a police officer questions any individual of a crime, a suspect of a crime or the person arrested of the crime.

Reasonable Suspicion

When a police officer has more than "just a hunch" or a specific fact to believe a person has committed or is about to commit a crime.

Search Incident to Arrest

An act to search a person, including the person's belongings and the area within reach of where the person was, who has been arrested without a search warrant.

Search Warrant

A written document that orders a specific location to be searched for items, which if found, can be used in court as evidence.

Violation

An unlawful act committed on a person, property or rights of another.

Understanding the Laws

The following is a guide to the city and state laws that are the most useful for young people to know. When you know the law, it is easier to make decisions that will keep you out of trouble.

NOTE: RCW stands for Revised Code of Washington, which are state laws. SMC stands for Seattle Municipal Code, which are City Ordinances. Both are laws within the city of Seattle.

Robbery (RCW 9A.56.190; 200; and 210)

Robbery is when a person unlawfully takes any property from another person or in the presence of that person against his/her will, by the use or threatened use of force, violence or fear of injury. If you are with a person who commits a robbery, you can be charged as an accessory to robbery.

Theft, Shoplifting & Carprowling (SMC 12A.08.060) (RCW 9A.56.020-050, RCW 9A.52.095 and 9A.52.100)

Shoplifting, stealing property, not paying for services, and stealing items from a car are all considered theft. The degree of theft you can be charged with is based on the value of the item stolen:

- Under \$750 3rd degree
- \$750 to \$5,000 2nd degree
- Over \$5,000 1st degree

If you are with another person who shoplifts and you know they are doing it or help them, you may also be charged with shoplifting as well. In certain situations, your parents can be considered liable for your shoplifting. Store employees have the right to detain you until a police officer arrives, and if you use any force or threat of force to get away, you could be charged with robbery.

Criminal Street Gang Tagging & Graffiti

(RCW 9A.48.105 and 9.94A.030)

Malicious Mischief in the Third Degree (RCW 94.48.090)

A person is guilty of criminal street gang tagging and graffiti if you commit malicious mischief in the third degree, such as having multiple current convictions, or have been convicted for the same offense of a comparable offense in any city or town.

A criminal street gang-related offense means any felony or misdemeanor offense, whether in this state or elsewhere, that is committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang, or is committed with the intent to promote, or assist in any criminal conduct by the gang such as to exact revenge or retribution, or to obstruct justice or intimidate or eliminate any witness against the gang or any member of the gang.

Criminal street gang tagging and graffiti is a gross misdemeanor offense.

A person is guilty of malicious mischief in the third degree if you knowingly and maliciously cause physical damage to or destruct the property of another, under circumstances not amounting to malicious mischief in the first or second degree.

Property Destruction (SMC 12A.08.020)

A person is guilty of property destruction if you intentionally damage the property of another, such as write, paint or draw any inscriptions; figure or mark on any public or private building or personal property by another person. Property destruction is also a gross misdemeanor.

Bus Conduct

(RCW 9.91.025)

Harassing or interfering with the bus driver while he/she is in control of the bus is a felony. Assaults of a bus driver is also a felony. The following rules apply to public transportation such as Metro and regional transit systems.

- Don't smoke, litter, spit or disturb others with loud, raucous, unruly, harmful, or harassing behavior.
- Fighting, cussing, swearing, and throwing objects are distractions to the bus driver and affect the safety and comfort of other riders.
- Use earphones if you use an electronic music or game device.
- Destroying, defacing, damaging, tagging, scratching, etching, or breaking any part of a bus is illegal.

Truancy/Cutting School (RCW 28.225.010; 015; and 030)

Under the Washington State Compulsory School Attendance Laws, also known as the "Becca Bill," it is mandatory for all children between eight and 18 years old to attend school. In addition, if a child is six to seven years of age and is enrolled in a public school by their parent, the law is also applicable to them.

By law, a school district must file a truancy petition when there are seven unexcused absences in one month or ten unexcused absences in one year. If you are deemed to be truant, you and your parents can be held accountable.

WEAPONS FREE ZONES:

All public schools in the city of Seattle are Weapons Free Zones.

If you are caught with any weapon at school, you are automatically suspended and face a \$1,000 fine or one year in jail – or both.

If you are caught a second time with a weapon, you are expelled from all public schools in Seattle, in addition to the fine and/or jail time.

Possession of Marijuana (RCW 69.50.401 and .4014)

Possession of marijuana is a crime. Having less than 40 grams or about the weight of two packs of cigarettes is a criminal violation. If convicted, you can be detained, serve jail time or pay fines. The minimum penalty is one day in jail and a \$250 fine. The maximum penalty can be as much as 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

If you are in possession of more than 40 grams of marijuana, you can be charged with a felony crime and could go to prison for more than one year.

Puchasing Liquor (SMC 12A.24.100)

It is unlawful for anyone under 21 years old to possess, consume or acquire liquor. You cannot have an open or unopened container of beer, wine, wine cooler, or any other intoxicant beverage in your possession or around your immediate surrounding.

You may, with parental and/or legal guardian present, drink liquor for medicinal purposes as prescribed by a medical doctor or for religious purposes.

Smoking (RCW 70.155.080)

A person under 18 who attempts to purchase, possess or obtain cigarettes or tobacco products is committing a civil infraction.

The penalty is up to four hours of community service, a monetary fine or both. The court may even order you to attend a "Quit Smoking" class.

Identification (SMC 12A.24.130)

It is also illegal to use another person's identification, give a fake or altered identification, or represent yourself as a person of at least 21 years old for the purpose of obtaining liquor from a store clerk, bartender or an establishment that serves adults over 21 years old or for the sole purpose of getting into that establishment.

Trespassing (SMC 12A.08.040)

Some businesses enter trespassing contracts that allow the police on behalf of the owner, to warn and remove people who are trespassing on their property. Most violation of park



codes are criminal violations that can result in either being banned from a park for up to 30 days, detention, jail time or fines.

Most public places have certain hours of operation that are posted around the main entrance. In the city of Seattle, most public parks close between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.

Anyone in the park between those hours can be found guilty of Trespassing. There are also rules against drinking alcohol and other disruptive and dangerous activities.

Unreasonable Noise (SMC 25.08.500)

Unreasonable Noise is enforced in the city of Seattle. Unreasonable noise includes all sounds and human voices, amplified or not, around residential properties and including sounds of motor vehicles or portable sound systems that can be heard 75 feet away, between the daily hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

It is illegal to knowingly cause, make or allow unreasonable noise that disturbs another and refuse or purposefully fail to stop when ordered to do so by a police officer. If convicted, you can face fines or even jail time.

Rape, Sexual Assault & Dating Violence

(RCW 9A.44.040; 045; 050; and 060)

Anyone can be a victim of rape, sexual assault and dating violence.

- Rape is an act of sexual intercourse, without consent and where force or violence is used or threatened.
- Sexual assault is the touching, feeling of another person without consent.
- Dating violence, which is a form of domestic violence, is a threat or an act of violence by at least one member of an unmarried couple on the other member, within the context of dating or courtship.

ABUSIVE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

The following are signs of abuse:

- Insults you in public or private
- Checks up on where you've been
- Puts down your friends/family or tries to isolate you from them
- Says jealousy is a sign of love
- \checkmark Destroys your things
- Threatens to hurt you, your family, or your pets
- Is violent towards you or hits you \checkmark

If you think you are being abused, or are in relationship that scares you - understand that you are not to blame and should not be ashamed to ask for help. Tell a trusted friend or family member.

If you are in immediate danger call 9-1-1.

Seattle Police Domestic Violence Unit

206-684-0330

WA State 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-562-6025



Domestic Family Violence (RCW 10.99 and 9A.36)

Domestic and family violence is an epidemic and a crime. Battering is the violence committed in these crimes. Battering is a pattern of behavior of abusing power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence.

Hate Crimes (SMC 12A.060.115 and RCW 9A.36.080)

Hate crimes are criminal acts, committed against someone because of his or her race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, age, or gender. Hate crimes are actions motivated by prejudice. Hate crimes can be a misdemeanor or a felony, which is malicious harassment.

Hate crimes also include crimes against property, such as arson or vandalism, particularly those directed against community centers or houses of worship. In a hate crime, the victim is selected because of a characteristic that he/she cannot change.



A TRAFFIC STOP FROM THE POLICE OFFICERS' PERSPECTIVE:

"When I pull over a car, it is almost impossible to know much about the situation or persons inside when I approach the vehicle. Because of this, traffic stops are potentially a very dangerous situation for police officers. To protect my own safety, I may approach your vehicle with what might seem to you like too much caution. Calling for backup is also routine, especially at night. Don't take any of this personally. Remember, I don't know anything about who is driving until I reach the car.

You can help the situation by speaking to me calmly and with respect, keeping your hands visible and telling any passengers to do the same. If it is at night, please also turn on your interior car light. All of this will make the entire traffic stop go much smoother for the both of us."

Traffic Laws & Rules

When you see emergency lights and/or hear sirens:

- Remain calm and safely pull over to the right side of the road.
- ✓ Stay in your vehicle and keep your hands visible.
- ✓ Follow the directions of the police officer.
- ✓ Washington law requires drivers to show their license, registration and proof of insurance upon request from a police officer.
- ✓ Be honest with the police and ask for an explanation if something is unclear.
- ✓ If you are issued a citation, you have the opportunity to contest the citation in court after the fact.
- ✓ Accepting or signing the citation is not an admission of guilt.

 Getting stopped for what a driver may consider a minor infraction such as darkly tinted windows, inoperative equipment, or failing to signal before a turn are legitimate reasons to stop a vehicle. It is the job of police officers to enforce all traffic codes.

Police officers may stop a motorist for these reasons:

- ✓ Traffic violations.
- ✓ Probable cause to make an arrest.
- Reasonable suspicion of a criminal activity based on personal observations and information from other police officers, the police radio or a witness.
- ✓ Outstanding warrants.

"Terry Stops" of Vehicles

A "Terry Stop" of vehicles are when an officer may stop vehicles for questions, if the officer reasonably suspects that the driver in the vehicle has committed, is commiting or is about to commit a crime. The officer is not requested to have probable cause to arrest the invididual at the time of contact, but may have reasonable suspicion that the individual is involved in criminal activity. Evidence obtained through a Terry Stop of a vehicle is acceptable as long as it was a result of reasonable suspicion that a crime occurred.

Traffic Stops (SMC 11.20.060)

Traffic stops are when police officers pull people over to investigate a traffic violation or other kinds of activities requiring attention. Stops for minor infractions such as faulty headlights, bald tires, and missing license plates are legal and legitimate. Remember that the enforcement of traffic laws help keep everyone safe.

Driving Under the Influence (SMC 11.56.020)

If you are under 21 years old and are driving while under the influence of intoxicants and have a blood alcohol level of .02 percent or higher you can be charged with Driving Under the Influence in a court of law. Police officers are also trained to recognize people who are under the influence of marijuana.

If the odor of alcohol or marijuana is in your car, the police officer is required to determine if you are drunk or high before they let you drive away. The odor of alcohol or marijuana can provide probable cause in certain situations.

Taking a Vehicle Without Permission

(RCW 9A.56.070 and RCW 94.56.075)

Theft of a Motor Vehicle (RCW 9A.56.065)

Taking a vehicle without the permission of the owner or the person left in charge of the vehicle can result in an Auto Theft charge. If you are the passenger in a stolen vehicle, you can also be charged with auto theft. If you suspect a vehicle is stolen, do not get in.

Here are some obvious signs of a stolen vehicle:

- Extra license plates inside the vehicle.
- There is no key in the ignition, and the vehicle is running.
- The ignition is covered up with a towel or rag.
- The steering column is cracked or damaged.

Driving Without a License (SMC 11.20.010)

Driving without a license is a crime. A conviction can get you jail time and fines.

If you are driving a vehicle and you are stopped, you must show the police officer a valid driver's license. If you do not have a valid license, you can legally be arrested. If you have forgotten your license or have misplaced it, show the police officer an identification card instead. This allows the police officer to verify your driver's status and give you a citation instead of arresting you.

If you refuse to show any kind of identification, do not identify yourself, lie about your name, sign the wrong name, or refuse to sign the citation, your vehicle may be impounded and you can be arrested and charged with Making a False or Misleading Statement to a Public Servant or Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer.

Graduated, Intermediate Drivers License Restrictions (SMC 11.20.060)

Certain restrictions apply when you are issued an intermediate drivers license.

- You may not drive a vehicle with a passenger under 20, unless they are your spouse or are blood-related family members, for the first six months of your intermediate drivers license until you reach 18 years of age.
- Once the first six months has passed or you reach 18, you may drive with no more than three passengers under 20. You may not drive between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., unless you are with a parent, guardian or a licensed driver older than 25.
- These restrictions, primarily for your safety, are lifted if you have a safe and good driving record.

Racing/Reckless Driving (SMC 11.56.120)

Racing is a willful and irresponsible behavior. It disregards your safety, the safety of others and the community.

If you race with one or more vehicles on the highway, street, alley, or road, you can be charged with Reckless Driving. This charge is a serious traffic offense and a crime. You may not be able to keep your driver's license and your car insurance rates will drastically increase.

Speeding (SMC 11.52.040)

Legally, you can be given a speeding ticket for going 1-mile per hour over the posted speed limit. Ticket cost is determined by the posted speed limit and how fast over the limit you were. Your speed can be determined by pacing, radar or laser device.

Exceeding Reasonable Speed (SMC 11.52.020)

When certain driving conditions exist, you can also get a speeding ticket even if you are going less than the posted speed limit. These conditions include inclement weather such as rain, snow and ice. Other conditions are school zones, street repair and construction zones, and areas with heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Attempting to Elude a Police Vehicle (RCW 46.61.024)

Any driver who fails or refuses to immediately bring a vehicle to a stop and who drives the vehicle in a reckless manner while attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle after being signaled to stop by emergency lights, siren, voice or hand signal can be guilty of a felony.

The Department of Licensing will revoke the license or permit of anyone found quilty of attempting to elude a police vehicle.

Cell Phones - Use of Wireless Devices

(RCW 46.61.667)

Driving a moving vehicle while holding a cell phone to your ear or texting are traffic infractions. Cell phones must be in hands-free mode using a speaker phone, headset or earpeice.



AGGRESSIVE DRIVING RESPONSE TEAM

In June 2006, three teenagers were out celebrating their first night of summer vacation. Around 3 a.m. they were out driving, and were going so fast that they hit a barrier and flipped their car. The car became engulfed in flames. All three were killed. The Seattle Police Traffic Sergeant who responded to the scene of the accident never wanted to have it happen again. As a result, an Aggressive Driving Response Team was formed. The Aggressive Driving Response Team is a group of highly skilled officers who monitor areas known for aggressive driving and speeders. Be forewarned that they are extremely good at their job.If you are driving recklessly, they will most likely catch you.

If you are a driver, remember that joyrides are not worth any amount of ticket, and it is especially not worth your life or that of your passengers. And if you are the passenger in a speeding car - speak up and tell the driver to slow down and drive safely!

The Bangers of Firearms

All guns are potentially deadly. Hundreds of young people throughout the nation are killed accidentally by firearms every year. Guns should always be stored in places that are secured and out of children's reach. Unless you have proper training, you can easily kill yourself or anyone else by handling or playing with a gun.

Did you know?

Even if you just hold a gun while looking at it, playing with it, or keep it in a school locker, a gym bag, or place in the bushes, this is still considered control and possession of a gun.

If you give a gun to a friend and they end up hurting or fatally shooting someone, because you gave your friend the gun used to commit a crime, you could also face serious legal consequences.

You can also be charged with Menacing, or the unlawful display of a weapon, even if it is not pointed at a person, just by showing it off.

If you are 16 or 17 years old, and charged with a serious violent crime such as murder, assault, robbery, rape, kidnap and arson, or any felony with a firearm, you are automatically placed in the adult system, even if you do not have a criminal history.

If someone confronts you with a weapon:

- Stay calm. Leave if possible.
- Avoid rushing or agitating the individual.
- Focus on the individual not the weapon.
- Use words to negotiate. Step back and buy time.
- Immediately report the incident to the police by calling 911.
 Provide the dispatcher with a detailed description of the individual with the gun.

If you have a weapon, and you are stopped by police:

If you are stopped by a police officer and you have a weapon, or something that looks like or could even be mistaken as weapon on you, put your hands in the air and tell the police officer what you have and where it is located. Never pull the weapon out or reach for it for any reason!

Police officers are trained to react to an immediate threat to themselves and to the lives of others - sometimes with deadly force. Officers do not know if what you are holding is a real gun or not. Never point a gun, toy gun or a gun-like device at officers or anyone else. Some guns are equipped with laser targeting, so never point any type of laser device at the police.

YOU WILL DO TIME FOR GUN CRIME

- Gun possession and use is a serious crime in Washington State and there are harsh penalties, even if you are a Juvenile.
- It is a felony for anyone under the age of 18 to own, possess or control a firearm of any kind for any reason in Seattle or in the state of Washington.
- If you are tried as an adult, you can be charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in which the maximum penalty is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.
- If you are prosecuted as a Juvenile for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, your sentence is at least 10 days detention and up to 12 months of community supervision.

If You Are Arrested ...

If you are ever arrested -- regardless of your guilt or innocence -- go with the police officer peacefully. Otherwise you will be charged with resisting an arrest on top of any other charges.

You will have a chance to make your defense in court. You have the right to remain silent, and can choose to tell the police officer nothing except your name, age and address.

You can ask to talk to a lawyer and do so by phone after being taken into custody. You can also choose not to talk to the police until your lawyer is present. If you are arrested for a jailable offense and can't pay for a lawyer, you have the right to a free lawyer.

If the police have a search warrant, you can ask to see it. Whether or not there is a warrant to search you or your property, you can protect your rights by making it clear that you do not agree to any search. If the police continue their search, do not physically resist.

If you are under 18, police are required to contact your parents or guardians following your arrest. If you do not want them to be called, you will most likely be detained longer until someone else comes to pick you up.

When a person is arrested and held in custody, the prosecutor may request the person be held until charges are filed. Within 24 hours of the arrest, a judge must decide whether the person will be held in custody on the basis of probable cause. If a person is held, the prosecutor must file charges within 72 hours of the initial arrest, or the person is released.

If the prosecutor files charges, the person will be arraigned – formally charged with a crime before the court. A judge decides whether the accused will remain in custody or be released on bail, bond, personal

recognizance or court-imposed conditions.

If the charges are not filed, the person is released. If charges are filed, the accused is summoned to return to court. The accused is entitled to a lawyer or one is appointed by the court in any hearings before the court. If you need legal assistance, representation or advice on any legal



or law-related matter, contact the King County Office of Public Defense. There are numerous legal services available at little or no cost.

MIRANDA WARNING

- · You have the right to remain silent.
- Anything you say can be used against you in a court of law.
- You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him/her with you while you are questioned.
- If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before any questioning, if you wish.
- Do you understand each of these rights as I have explained them to you?

WAIVER: If you consent to a waiver of your Miranda Rights, either verbally, in writing or by continuing to answer questions, the police may proceed with questioning. Any evidence may be used against you in court.

FOR JUVENILES ONLY: If you are under the age of 18, anything you say can be used against you in a juvenile court prosecution for a juvenile offense, and can also be used against you in an adult court criminal prosecution if the juvenile court decides that you are to be tried as an adult.



RESOURCES

Seattle Police

Emergencies:

9-1-1

Non-Emergencies:

206-625-5011

Office of Professional

Accountability (OPA)

If you feel you have been mistreated by a Seattle Police employee (206) 615-1566

CRIMESTOPPERS

You can report crime anonymously

Crime Stoppers Tipline

206-343-2020

Text-a-Crime-Tip (Anonymous)

Text "TIP486" + Message

+ Send to "274637"

24-Hour Crisis Line

If you are having thoughts of suicide or if you just need to talk about anything.

1-866-427-4747

206-461-3222

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Safe Schools Hotline:

206-252-0510

Reporting Crime

The police would rather hear about something that turns out to be a false alarm than nothing at all. The cycle of crime can only stop when law enforcement knows about it. This is especially true for retaliatory violence.

Some crimes can be very hard to report, especially if people who you know are involved. You have to think about the long term benefits. You may help bring justice to victims or prevent a terrible event from ever happening. If your friends get caught at minor illegal activity early, it may even prevent them from getting further involved in more serious criminal behavior later. Sometimes reporting a crime will be the only thing that you can do to clear your conscience.

There are some good resources available:

- If you know of something that is imminent, such as rumors of weapons or something going down at school, talk to a teacher or any school administrator immediately or call 9-1-1.
- If you fear for your own safety, you can report the crime anonymously to **Crime Stoppers**. You can do this via a phone call or through a text tip, and you will not be traceable. (details on left side of page)
- If there is a School Resource Officer in your school you can talk to them about any personal safety concerns.

THE RESPECT GUIDE

is produced by the Seattle Police Department. The purpose of this **Guide** is to inform you of the laws that most often affect youth, give you tips on how to interact with police officers if you are contacted by them, and to explain some of the the policies and procedures that police officers have to enforce for your safety and the safety of our community.

This guide is not intended to serve as a legal document or provide legal advice.



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