



Traffic Services Section Michigan State Police Field Update #16

Providing Traffic Related Information and Services to Michigan Law Enforcement

Section Phone (517) 336-6171

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UD-10 Traffic Crash Report Update Training for 2006

The Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC) has announced their 2006 UD-10 update [training calendar](#). For information or reservations, please contact Michael Ransom at RansomML@michigan.gov or (517) 322-5418, Amanda Heinze at HeinzeA@michigan.gov or (517) 636-0192, or Angela Stanton at StantonA@michigan.gov or (517) 636-6034. Email is preferred.

Urban Legends of Michigan Traffic Law

The Traffic Services Section frequently receives questions based on misconceptions or urban legends. Some of these questions may involve valid laws or procedures in other states or provinces, but many fall into the category of myth or urban legend. A few of the more frequently asked questions appear below.

Riding in a Trailer: There is nothing in the Michigan Vehicle Code that specifically prohibits riding in a trailer, regardless of the type of hitch or configuration. Two-way communication between driver and occupants is not required. Child restraint violations might apply, but this is questionable as both MCL 257.710d and 257.710e refer to riding in a motor vehicle. Careless or reckless driving may apply in extreme circumstances if a police officer observes a particular action that substantiates such a charge.

Barefoot Driving: There is nothing in the Michigan Vehicle Code that prohibits barefoot driving. Careless or reckless driving would really be a stretch, as an argument could be made that a barefoot person has more control over the pedals.

Driving with Headphones: There is nothing in the Michigan Vehicle Code that specifically prohibits driving with headphones or earbuds. A driver could, however, be cited for careless, reckless, or failure to yield to an emergency vehicle if a police officer could show that the headphones interfered with the driver's ability to safely operate the vehicle. Some other states do have prohibitions against headphone use.

Suicide Knobs: There is nothing in the Michigan Vehicle Code that specifically prohibits "suicide knobs" or "spinners" on steering wheels. Such knobs could actually be required pursuant to a restricted operator's license for a person with a disability.

*677, *67, #77, etc.: This [internet myth](#) is actually based partially in reality, but does not apply to Michigan. In Michigan, as well as most states, the number to contact for an emergency is 911. Some states have a non-emergency number as well, with *677 being the variant that works in [Ontario](#) (677=OPP on the telephone keypad).

Alcohol in Recreational Vehicle: [MCL 257.624a](#) prohibits possessing or transporting an open container of alcoholic beverage in a vehicle. A motor home, camper, van, etc. that is a single unit is a motor vehicle and falls under this prohibition. Because trailers are also vehicles, passengers in a trailer are similarly prohibited from possessing open intoxicants. Alcoholic beverages are required to be stored in an inaccessible area if there is no trunk available. There is an exception in subsection (4) for a chartered vehicle (limousine) authorized to operate by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

[Alcohol Enforcement Unit](#)
[Grant Administration Unit](#)
[Section Commander](#)
[Speed Measurement Unit](#)

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[Crash Reconstruction Unit](#)
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