



MICHIGAN PEDESTRIAN LAWS

Guide for Law Enforcement Officers

DEFINITIONS

“Pedestrian” means any person afoot. Pedestrian includes an individual with a mobility disability who is using a power-driven mobility device. **MCL 257.39**

On the UD-10 Traffic Crash Report, “Pedestrian” means a person on foot; person on skis, skates or roller blades; rider of a horse; horse and buggy (each occupant, including the driver, will be listed as a separate pedestrian unit); non-motorized wheel chair.
UD-10 Traffic Crash Report Instructional Manual v.1.4

“Highway or street” means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. **MCL 257.20**

CIVIL INFRACTIONS SPECIFIC TO PEDESTRIANS

Limited Access Highways. A pedestrian or other non-motorized traffic shall not be permitted on a limited access highway in this state. **MCL 257.679a**

Don’t Walk (Steady Burning or Flashing) Interval. A pedestrian shall not start to cross the highway in the direction of the signals, but a pedestrian who has partially completed crossing on the walk interval of the signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the don’t walk interval of the signal is showing. **MCL 257.613(2)(b)**

Sidewalk Use and Walking Left Facing Traffic. Where sidewalks are provided, a pedestrian shall not walk upon the main traveled portion of the highway. Where sidewalks are not provided, pedestrians shall, when practicable, walk on the left side of the highway facing traffic which passes nearest. **MCL 257.655**

Blind Pedestrian. A blind pedestrian who does not carry a cane or use a dog guide or walker has all of the rights and privileges conferred upon any other pedestrian by the laws of this state. The failure of a blind pedestrian to carry a cane or use a dog guide or walker shall not be treated as evidence of negligence in a civil action for injury to the blind pedestrian or for the blind pedestrian’s wrongful death. **MCL 752.52(2)**

Impeding Traffic. A person, without authority, shall not block, obstruct, impede, or otherwise interfere with the normal flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic upon a public street or highway in this state, by means of a barricade, object, or device, or with his or her person. This section does not apply to persons maintaining, rearranging, or constructing public utility facilities in or adjacent to a street or highway. **MCL 257.676(1)**

CIVIL INFRACTIONS SPECIFIC TO MOTORISTS

Yield to Pedestrians. Whether the signal is green, steady yellow or red, the vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and bicyclists lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk. **MCL 257.612**

Stop Before a Crosswalk. Vehicular traffic facing a steady red signal alone shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or at a limit line when marked or, if there is no crosswalk or limit line, before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until a green indication is shown. **MCL 257.612(1)(c)(i)**

Violation of the Basic Speed Law (VBSL). A person operating a vehicle on a highway shall operate that vehicle at a careful and prudent speed not greater than nor less than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface, and width of the highway and of any other condition existing at the time. A person shall not operate a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than that which will permit a stop within the assured, clear distance ahead. (Note: the MJI Traffic Benchmark specifically references a condition to consider: traffic volume of pedestrians). **MCL 257.627(1)**

Improper Turn. When markers, signs, or signals are so placed, a driver of a vehicle shall not turn a vehicle at an intersection other than as directed and required by those markers, signs, or signals. **MCL 257.647**

Blind Pedestrians at Crossings. A driver of a vehicle shall not approach a crosswalk or any other pedestrian crossing without taking all necessary precautions to avoid accident or injury to a blind pedestrian carrying a cane or using a dog guide or walker. **MCL 752.52**

Reporting a Crash. The driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident that injures or kills any person, or that damages property to an apparent extent totaling \$1,000.00 or more, shall immediately report that accident at the nearest or most convenient police station, or to the nearest or most convenient police officer. **MCL 257.622**

MISDEAMEANORS SPECIFIC TO MOTORISTS

Handicapped Pedestrians at Crossings. A vehicle operator who approaches a person using a wheelchair or a device to aid the person to walk at a crosswalk or any other pedestrian crossing shall take necessary precautions to avoid accident or injury to the person using the wheelchair or device. **MCL 257.612(4)**

GENERAL "RULES OF THE ROAD" FOR PEDESTRIANS & MOTORISTS

Identification when Stopped. A person shall not furnish to a peace officer false, forged, fictitious, or misleading verbal or written information identifying the person as another person, if the person is detained for a violation of this act or of a local ordinance substantially corresponding to a provision of this act. **MCL 257.324(1)(h)**

While it is not a requirement to have a driver license as a pedestrian, law enforcement officers in the State of Michigan may stop and detain for purposes of identification any person when there is a reasonable suspicion that a crime or violation has been committed. This applies to any law or section of the Michigan Vehicle Code.

Authority to stop, detain, and issue civil infractions. A police officer who witnesses a person violating this act or a local ordinance substantially corresponding to this act, which violation is a civil infraction, may stop the person, detain the person temporarily for purposes of making a record of vehicle check, and prepare and subscribe, as soon as possible and as completely as possible, an original and 3 copies of a written citation, which shall be a notice to appear in court for 1 or more civil infractions. **MCL 257.742(1)**

Uniform Traffic Code. A city, township or village can adopt the uniform traffic code into local ordinance for the regulation of traffic in their cities, townships or villages. **MCL 257.951**

Law enforcement officers should familiarize themselves with their local codes and ordinances related to pedestrian safety. While the Michigan State Police promulgates the Uniform Traffic Code, the rules are not enforceable unless the local municipality has adopted the code into local code or ordinance.



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