

Tips for Drivers

Be alert

Expect cyclists and pedestrians on the road. Treat bicycles as you would any slow-moving vehicle.

Patience, not patients

Patience, especially on the road, is a virtue, and can save lives.

Your patience may involve

In conditions where there is not enough room for a cyclist to ride to the right, they are allowed to ride closer to the lane of traffic, and sometimes even in the lane of traffic. It is legal (and sometimes expected) for pedestrians to use the roadway.

3 foot rule

Do not pass a cyclist until you can see that you can safely do so. You should allow ample space between your vehicle and the bicycle and make sure you do not place the cyclist in danger. If you pass too closely the drag from your car can pull a cyclist off course and cause the rider to swerve out of control.

The right behavior

Watch out for cyclists and pedestrians when you are turning right. A bicyclist may well be to the right of you and planning to go straight at the same intersection. Do not speed ahead of the bicyclist thinking you can negotiate the turn before they reach your car. The cyclist may be going faster than you think and, as you slow to make the turn, the cyclist may not be able to avoid crashing into the passenger side of your vehicle.

On your left

Also look for cyclists and pedestrians when making a left-hand turn.

A back-up plan

Bicycle rides and pedestrians come in all shapes and sizes. When backing out of your driveway always look to see if someone is riding or walking in your path. Children or small adults might be hard to see. Drive slowly and look carefully.

Egress etiquette

After parallel parking, make sure the coast is clear for opening the car door to exit. Make sure there are no cyclists riding alongside your car or pedestrians on the sidewalk. By using the rear view mirrors and by turning around, a driver can spot someone approaching and circumvent a disaster. A cyclist cannot anticipate when a driver will open a door, but a driver can easily detect a cyclist who may be in the line of danger.

Respect

Cyclists and pedestrians have a rightful spot on the road and right-of-way. Cyclists and pedestrians also positively impact the environment with each revolution of their wheels or each step taken by opting to ride and walk rather than drive.

The use of your horn

Do not to honk unnecessarily at cyclists or pedestrians. If the need does arise to honk your horn to alert a cyclist or pedestrian, do so at a respectable distance. If you are too close, the noise itself can cause them to lose his or her bearings and create a hazardous situation for both you.

Try it, you'll like it

If you can't beat them, join them. Ride a bike. Take a walk. It may just change your life. These activities are good for you and good for your environment. At the very least, it will give you a better appreciation for the issues they face every day on the road with respect to motorists.

Kentucky Laws and Regulations for Pedestrians



KRS 304.39-050(1),

Is interpreted to mean that a pedestrian is a person who is not actually operating, riding in or upon, entering, or alighting from a "kind of motor vehicle,"

KRS 189.010 (8)

"Pedestrian" means any person afoot or in a wheelchair.



Pedestrian Laws

Laws & Regulations

KRS 189.570 (4) When traffic control signals are not in place or in operation the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.

(5) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

(6) (a) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(6) (b) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(^6) (d) Notwithstanding other provisions of this subsection or the provisions of any local ordinance, every operator of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing a child or an obviously confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway.

(7) No vehicle shall at any time be driven through or within a safety zone.
The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk.

(8) The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk.

(9) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

(10) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians shall cross only in accordance with the official traffic control devices pertaining to such crossing movements.

(11) Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.

(12) Where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

(13) Where a sidewalk is not available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder, as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway.

(14) Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available, any pedestrian walking on or along a highway shall walk as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway, and, if on a two-way roadway shall walk only on the left side of the roadway.

(15) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, any pedestrian upon a roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(16) A pedestrian who is under the influence of alcohol or any kind of drug to a degree which renders himself a hazard shall not walk or be upon a highway except on a sidewalk.

(17) No pedestrian shall enter or remain upon any bridge or approach thereto beyond the bridge signal, gate, or barrier, after a bridge operation signal indication has been given.

KRS 198.570 (18) No pedestrian shall pass through, around, over, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

(19) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

(20) No person shall stand on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting employment or business from the occupant of any vehicle.

(21) No person shall stand on a highway for the purpose of soliciting contributions unless such soliciting is designated by the presence of a traffic control device or warning signal or an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle as defined in KRS 189.910 making use of the flashing, rotating or oscillating red, blue, or yellow lights on such devices or vehicles.

(22) No person shall stand on or in proximity to a street or highway for the purpose of soliciting the watching or guarding of any vehicle while parked or about to be parked on a street or highway.

KRS 189.575 Yielding right-of-way to blind pedestrian. The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any blind pedestrian carrying a clearly visible white cane or accompanied by an assistance dog.

For more information on pedestrian safety, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Web site at:

www.nhtsa.dot.gov
www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/

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