

# *Driving in California* **2009**

**What You Need to Know to Get A  
California Driver's License**



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# Driving in California 2009



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# DRIVING IN CALIFORNIA

This booklet is a brief summary of California laws about obtaining a driver's license and driving in California. It condenses or paraphrases the actual language of the California Vehicle Code. Bear in mind that courts are guided by the full and exact language of the law. Notes to the text correspond to the relevant vehicle code section numbers, which are listed in Appendix B. The California Vehicle Code, published in odd-numbered years, may be purchased for \$9 at any office of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Information presented in this guide has been carefully researched and was accurate and up-to-date for laws passed during the 2008 California Legislature session. However, the Automobile Club of Southern California is not responsible for any subsequent changes in the law, or any errors or omissions that may occur.

**NOTE: This booklet covers the Vehicle Code provisions needed to help prepare you to take and pass the written driving exam. The DMV may include questions on the test about driving practices not covered by the law that may not be contained in this booklet. Members desiring additional information should contact their local DMV.**

**To find your local Auto Club office, check your phone book, or visit the Auto Club online at [AAA.com](http://AAA.com).**

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ON THE COVER: James Hansen, *Spring Motoring Scene*, 1952. Hansen (1918–1993) was a young art student in Los Angeles when he won the competition to sculpt the statue of Abraham Lincoln that was installed at the Federal Building in L.A. in 1940. He went on to an award-winning career as a commercial artist and provided five paintings for *Westways* covers in the late 1940s and early 1950s. *Spring Motoring Scene* captured the promise of the open road.

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## GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

To report a traffic crash, dangerous road conditions, A drunk-driver sighting, or other hazard, call 911 or the local traffic police. To find out how to report a smog-belching vehicle in your area, visit the Department of Consumer Affairs Bureau of Automotive Repair website at [www.smogcheck.ca.gov/stdhome.asp](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov/stdhome.asp).

### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Headquarters: 2415 1st Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95818  
(800) 777-0133  
[dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov)

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has many local offices throughout California. To locate your local office, see the STATE GOVERNMENT listing near the front of your telephone directory. Office hours are typically Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; many offices offer extended hours Thursday until 6:30 p.m. Call your local office for hours of service or to make an appointment.

Listed below are publications available from the DMV:

- *California Vehicle Code*
- *California Driver Handbook*
- *Motorcycle Handbook*
- *Recreation Vehicles and Trailers*
- *California Commercial Driver Handbook*
- *Mature Driver Handbook*
- *Vehicle and Vessel Registration Handbook*
- *Parent-Teen Training Aid*
- *Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Supplement*

### CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

Headquarters: 2555 1st Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95818  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 942898, Sacramento, CA 94298-0001  
(916) 657-7261

For locations in other cities, see the STATE GOVERNMENT listing near the front of your telephone directory.

# THE CALIFORNIA DRIVER'S LICENSE

Driving on public roadways in California is not a right—it is a privilege granted by the state. A driver's license shows that you have been given permission to drive by the state.<sup>1</sup> You may apply for a license at any office of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

## Carrying and Showing Your License

You must have your driver's license with you whenever you drive.<sup>2</sup> You must show it to any police officer who asks to see it.<sup>3</sup> You must also show it to the other driver(s) if you are in a crash.<sup>4</sup>

Do not laminate your license; it is already plastic-coated.

**You may be given a license after you:**

1. Have properly answered questions about the law and safety rules,<sup>5</sup>
2. Show that your physical and mental condition is satisfactory,<sup>6</sup>
3. Have no outstanding actions on your driving record,<sup>7</sup>
4. Provide your true full name,<sup>8</sup>
5. Provide your social security number,<sup>9</sup>
6. Provide your thumbprint or fingerprint,<sup>10</sup>

7. Provide proof that you are in the United States legally,<sup>11</sup>

8. Pay a \$28 fee, unless you paid it within 12 months for an Instruction Permit (see page 23).

**For your first license, you must:**

- Successfully drive a vehicle while an examiner grades you.<sup>12</sup>
- Have your picture taken.<sup>13</sup>

If you have a medical problem or a disability, the DMV may require you to present a statement from your doctor regarding your condition.

## Who Must Have a License

### CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS

If you are a California resident and drive a motor vehicle on a public highway or parking facility open to the public, you must have a California driver's license.<sup>14</sup>

**Age Requirements**—No matter what your age, bring your birth certificate (original or certified copy) or legal presence document to the DMV the first time you apply for a license.<sup>15</sup> The document will be returned to you.

**Adults**—If you are over 18 years old, meet the requirements, and pass the tests, you may be issued a California driver's license. There is no upper age limit.

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**Minors**—You are legally a minor if you are under 18 years old.<sup>16</sup> If you are a minor, your parents or guardian must sign your application for a license or any change of class.<sup>17</sup> Your parents or guardian are also responsible if you are under 18 and drive without a license with their express or implied permission.<sup>18</sup> Persons under 18 years old may not be employed to drive a motor vehicle.<sup>19</sup> They may not drive a school bus carrying pupils.<sup>20</sup> You must be at least 21 years old to drive most commercial vehicles for hire in interstate commerce and to transport hazardous materials or waste.<sup>21</sup>

### **Residents who may not need a California driver's license:**

1. Members of the Armed Forces or civilian employees of the United States Government—but only while driving non-commercial vehicles owned or controlled by the United States on federal government business.<sup>22</sup>
2. Persons driving farming vehicles that are not normally used on public highways, with some exceptions.<sup>23</sup>
3. Persons driving legally registered off-highway vehicles or snowmobiles while crossing a highway, but only as follows:<sup>24</sup>

To cross a highway (other than a freeway) at approximately a right angle.

To cross a highway having more than two lanes, or a freeway, at places designated for crossing by these vehicles.

### **MILITARY PERSONNEL**

#### **California Service Persons Away from Home**

If you are on active military service in the United States Armed Forces and stationed out of state, your California driver's license will continue to be valid beyond its normal expiration date as long as you are absent from the state and less than 30 days past your honorable discharge.<sup>25</sup>

Ask the authorities in the state or country where you are stationed if they will honor your extended license.

Your license is not valid if it has been suspended, canceled, or revoked.<sup>26</sup>

Your extended license is good for only 30 days after you return to California for any reason. If honorably discharged, carry both your driver's license and discharge papers during these 30 days.<sup>27</sup>

#### **Nonresident Service Persons Stationed Here**

If you are 18 years of age or older, see the rules for "California Residents" on page 9 and "Persons Visiting California" on page 11.

If you are stationed in California and under 18 years old, you may drive with your home state license for 60 days after entering this state before applying for a California driver's license.<sup>28</sup> You may extend your driving privilege in California with the valid home state driver's license by getting a Nonresident Minor's Certificate<sup>29</sup> (see below).

**Note: Licensees eligible for military extensions should carry documentation from their home state to verify their status for California law enforcement officers.**

### PERSONS VISITING CALIFORNIA

If you are a visitor in California, over 18 years old, and have a valid driver's license from your home state or country (where you live permanently), you may drive in this state without getting a California driver's license as long as your home state or country license remains valid.<sup>30</sup>

When you make your home here or take a job, you must get a California driver's license within 10 days.<sup>31</sup> Get one if you become a resident and/or intend to drive for pay. Failure to do this could result in a citation and fine for not being properly licensed. You are considered a resident of California, for licensing purposes, by the DMV<sup>32</sup> if you:

- Register to vote in California.
- Accept employment or have a business here.
- Pay resident tuition at a public institution of higher education.
- Have dependents attending California public schools.
- File for a homeowner's property tax exemption.
- Rent or lease a home for use as a residence.
- Obtain a license, or any other privilege or benefit not ordinarily extended to nonresidents.

### Minor-age Visitors

If you are a visitor in California and between 16 and 18 years old, you may drive here with your home state license or instruction permit for only 10 days after you arrive in California.<sup>33</sup> After the 10 days you must have a Nonresident Minor's Certificate or a California license.<sup>34</sup> You may not be compensated for work as a driver until you are 18 and have a California license.<sup>35</sup>

A Nonresident Minor's Certificate lets you drive in California with a valid home state license. This is issued by the DMV to a minor who has given proof of ability to respond to damages in case of a crash.<sup>36</sup> This proof is usually a motor vehicle accident insurance certificate from an insurance company allowed to conduct business in California.

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**WARNING: Making a false statement on a DMV document is a misdemeanor offense. Signing a false statement under penalty of perjury is a felony offense.<sup>37</sup> Both crimes are punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.**

### Permitting an Unlicensed Person to Drive

You must not let your child, ward, or employee under the age of 18 years drive on a highway or in a public parking facility unless the minor has a license or permit.<sup>38</sup> The law also says that you must not employ, permit, or authorize any person to drive a vehicle on a public street or highway unless the person is licensed to drive that class of vehicle.<sup>39</sup> It is against the law to loan your vehicle to an unlicensed person or anyone whose license has been suspended.<sup>40</sup> If an unlicensed person is stopped by a law enforcement officer while driving your car, your vehicle may be impounded for 30 days.<sup>41</sup>

### California License Classifications

There are nine classes of California driver's license:

#### CLASS A:<sup>42</sup>

Lets you drive any legal combination of vehicles, including

vehicles under classes B and C.

You may tow:

- Any single vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 pounds.
- Any trailer bus, with endorsement.
- More than one vehicle, with endorsement.
- Any vehicle under classes B or C.

#### Class A Firefighter:<sup>43</sup>

Lets you drive only Class A- and Class B-defined combination firefighting vehicles and all vehicles listed under Class C.

You may not drive a bus.<sup>44</sup>

You may tow a single vehicle with a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds.

#### Class A Noncommercial:<sup>45</sup>

You may drive any vehicle under Class C.

You may tow travel trailers weighing over 10,000 pounds. GVWR or fifth-wheel trailers weighing over 15,000 pounds. GVWR when the trailers are not used for hire (or other compensation).

#### CLASS B:<sup>46</sup>

You may drive:

- Any single vehicle with a GVWR of more than 26,000



pounds.

- A three-axle vehicle.
- Any bus (except a trailer bus), with endorsement.
- Any farm labor vehicle, with endorsement.
- Motorhomes in excess of 40 feet, with a motorhome endorsement.
- All vehicles under Class C.

You may tow a single vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less.

**Class B Firefighter:**<sup>47</sup>

You may drive only a Class B-defined single firefighting vehicle and all the vehicles listed under Class C.

You may not drive a bus.<sup>48</sup>

You may tow a single vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less.

**CLASS C:**<sup>49</sup>

You may drive:

- Any two-axle vehicle with a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or less.
- Any three-axle vehicle weighing 6,000 pounds or less, gross.
- A motorhome 40 feet in length or less.

A farmer, employee of a farmer, and certain credentialed agricultural instructors may drive any combination of vehicles with a Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) or GVWR of 26,000

pounds or less if used exclusively in agricultural operations and not for hire or compensation.<sup>50</sup>

You may tow:

- A single vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less including a tow dolly, if used.<sup>51</sup>
- A boat trailer, provided the GCWR does not exceed 26,000 pounds when the towing is for recreational purposes or repair; is not used in commerce or contract-carrier operations, or in business; is not for hire; and doesn't require an oversize permit.<sup>52</sup> With a vehicle weighing at least 4,000 pounds, you may tow:<sup>53</sup>

A trailer coach or fifth-wheel travel trailer under 10,000 pounds GVWR when towing is not for compensation.

Fifth-wheel travel trailer exceeding 10,000 pounds but less than 15,000 pounds GVWR, when towing is not for compensation and with endorsement.<sup>54</sup>

**Note: No passenger vehicle, regardless of weight, may tow more than one vehicle.<sup>56</sup> No motor vehicle under 4,000 pounds laden may tow any vehicle weighing 6,000 pounds or more gross.<sup>57</sup> Class C licensees may not tow more than one vehicle.<sup>58</sup>**

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### Class C Commercial:

Class C does not include any two-wheel motorcycle or any two-wheel motor-driven cycle.<sup>55</sup>

You may drive any Class C vehicle carrying hazardous material that requires placards. The hazardous materials (HAZMAT) endorsement must be on the license. Drivers who transport hazardous wastes (as defined by Health & Safety Code § 25115 and § 25117) are also required to have the HAZMAT endorsement.

You may tow the same vehicles listed in Class C.

For further information on special licensing requirements, contact your local DMV.

**Vanpools:** You may drive a vanpool vehicle with a Class C license, but you must also pass the medical examination required for the Class B license. You must certify that you have not been convicted of reckless driving, drunk driving, or a hit-and-run offense in the past five years.<sup>59</sup>

A vanpool vehicle is designed and used for carrying more than 10 persons, but not more than 15 persons, including the driver, and is maintained and used primarily for the nonprofit work-related transportation of adults for the purpose of ridesharing.<sup>60</sup>

Call your local carpool phone number and ask for the *CalTrans Vanpool Booklet*.

### Class M1:<sup>61</sup>

You can operate any two-wheel motorcycle, motorized scooter, or motor-driven cycle. Refer to the *Motorcycle Handbook*, available at your local DMV, for more information.

### Class M2:<sup>62</sup>

You can operate a motorized bicycle (or moped), motorized scooter, or any bicycle with an attached motor. Refer to the DMV's *Motorcycle Handbook* for more information.

**Note: Class M1 and M2 is added to any other class license after passing law and skill tests.<sup>63</sup> The DMV will not issue a license to operate a two-wheel vehicle to anyone under 21 years of age unless that person has completed a California Highway Patrol (CHP)-approved motorcycle-rider training program certified on the DMV form Certificate of Completion of Motorcycle Training (DL 389).<sup>64</sup>**

### LICENSE TO DRIVE MAY BE REFUSED

- The DMV may refuse to issue you a driver's license if you:
- Have a history of alcohol or drug abuse.<sup>65</sup>
- Have used the license illegally.<sup>66</sup>



- Have lied on your application.<sup>67</sup>
- Do not understand traffic laws or signs.<sup>68</sup>
- Do not have the skill to drive.<sup>69</sup>
- Have a health problem that could make driving unsafe.<sup>70</sup>
- Have a failure to appear (FTA) or failure to pay (FTP) for a traffic citation on your driving record.<sup>71</sup>
- Have not complied with a judgment or order for family support payments.<sup>72</sup>
- Use a crib sheet for any examination for a license.<sup>73</sup>
- Impersonate or allow someone else to impersonate an applicant to fraudulently qualify for a license.<sup>74</sup>
- Refuse to give a thumbprint.<sup>75</sup>
- Refuse to sign the certification on the application.<sup>76</sup>
- Submit a fraudulent birth date/legal presence document or social security document, federal tax ID number or other acceptable identifier.<sup>77</sup>

### **RESTRICTED LICENSE**

The DMV may place restrictions on your license.<sup>78</sup> If you cannot pass the eye test without glasses, you will have to wear glasses while driving, and this will be stated on your license. If you cannot see well enough at night, you may be restricted to driving during daylight. Many other restrictions are possible. The DMV may

suspend or revoke your license if you violate a restriction.<sup>79</sup>

### **Other Legal Identification Cards**

#### **IDENTIFICATION (ID) CARD**

The DMV issues identification cards to persons of any age.<sup>80</sup> It is similar to a driver's license but is used for identification purposes only and does *not* permit you to drive. To obtain an identification card, you must show a birth date/legal presence verification document that will prove your true full name, age, and birth date, as well as provide a document verifying your social security number.<sup>81</sup> The fee for a regular ID card is \$23.<sup>82</sup> Low-income individuals may qualify to receive an ID card for a reduced-rate fee of \$7.<sup>83</sup> The card is good until the sixth birthday after it is issued.<sup>84</sup>

If you are age 62 or over, you may obtain an ID card marked SENIOR CITIZEN.<sup>85</sup> The card is free and good for 10 years.<sup>86</sup>

#### **MEDICAL INFORMATION CARD**

At any DMV office you may get a free card (DMV form DL 390) on which to list your blood type, allergies, name of your doctor, and other medical information.<sup>87</sup> It can be attached to the back of your driver's license or ID card.

#### **GIFT OF LIFE PROGRAM**

If you are at least 18 years old, you must designate whether in

the event of your death, your body, parts of your body, or a pacemaker may be donated for medical transplant.<sup>88</sup> If you are between the ages of 15 and 18, you may also donate with the written consent of a parent or guardian.<sup>89</sup> The DMV can supply you with a donor card to be attached to the back of your driver's license<sup>90</sup> or ID card<sup>91</sup> and a Donor sticker to be placed on the front. The card can also be used to show you do not wish to be a donor.<sup>92</sup>

### Renewing Your License

Generally, your driver's license is good for five years.<sup>93</sup> It expires on your birthday in the year shown in the upper left corner. It is unlawful for you to drive after the expiration date.

The DMV will send you a renewal notice about two months before your driver's license expires. The notice is also your renewal application form. If you don't receive a notice, you must apply for renewal anyway.<sup>94</sup>

Every time you apply for renewal of your driver's license, the DMV looks at your record. If your license has been suspended or revoked because of traffic tickets or crashes, you may not receive a renewal until your driving privileges have been reinstated.<sup>95</sup> See page 18 about treatment of negligent operators.

If you have not appeared in court

in response to a traffic citation, or if you have not paid a traffic fine, the DMV will hold your license until you have settled your obligations and the court has notified the DMV.<sup>96</sup>

### One-Year Extension

If you are a legal California resident but are out of state and cannot renew in person, you can request a one-year extension of your license. You must apply on or before the day it expires.<sup>97</sup> A "limited term" license cannot be extended. Mail your request to:

Department of Motor Vehicles  
P.O. Box 942890  
Sacramento, CA 94290-0001

### RENEWAL BY MAIL OR ONLINE

Your driver's license may be renewed by mail or online at the DMV website without an examination if:

- You do not have a probationary license.<sup>98</sup>
- You did not have a "failure to appear" (FTA) within the last two years.<sup>99</sup>
- You are not suspended for driving with an illegal Blood Alcohol Content level, or for refusing or failing to complete a Preliminary Alcohol Screening test within the last two years.<sup>100</sup>
- You do not have a total violation point count greater than one.<sup>101</sup>
- You are under 70 years old.<sup>102</sup>

Some drivers may earn a second “renewal by mail” if they continue to maintain good records.<sup>103</sup>

If you are eligible to renew by mail, you may mail the renewal notice and the \$28 fee to the DMV.

### RENEWAL IN PERSON

When applying for renewal in person, you will need to:

- Present your renewal notice or fill out an information form.
- Pay the required \$28 fee.<sup>104</sup>
- Pass the eye test.<sup>105</sup>
- Pass the traffic law test.<sup>106</sup>
- Give a thumb- or fingerprint.<sup>107</sup>
- Have your picture taken.<sup>108</sup>

If you are renewing a Class A, B or other commercial license, see the DMV's *Commercial Driver Handbook* for any additional requirements; if you are licensed to operate class M1 or M2 vehicles, see the DMV's *Motorcycle Handbook*.

A road test may be required as a part of any driver's license examination. Road tests cannot be required simply because of age.<sup>109</sup>

Drivers with physical or medical problems may have to be re-examined from time to time by a physician or be retested more often than every five years (limited term license status) by a driver's license examiner.<sup>110</sup>

**Note: Renewal notices and applications to renew your license by mail may not reach you if the DMV does not have your current address on your driver's license record. Chang-ing the address for your vehicle registration does not automatically change the address on your driver record.**

### Changing Your Address

When you move, you must give your new address to the DMV **within 10 days**.<sup>111</sup> If the DMV does not have your current address, you may not receive renewal notices or other DMV correspondence. You may go to any DMV or Auto Club office (if you are a member) and fill out a change of address form. If you can't go in person, you can telephone or write the DMV. Give your name, the number on your license, your old address and your new address, including the apartment number or mobile home space number, if any. Mail your form to:

Department of Motor Vehicles  
P.O. Box 942859  
Sacramento, CA 94259-0001

The DMV recommends that you also type or handwrite your new address in ink on a small piece of paper. Sign and date it. Carry this with your license; do not tape or staple the change of address information to your driver's license. You can get a Change of Address Certificate (DMV form DL 43) at

any DMV office to carry with your license. There is no charge to file an address change with the DMV; if you want your new address to appear on the front of your driver's license or ID card, there is a \$22 fee, the cost of a duplicate license.

### Changing Your Name

If you change your name by marriage or for any other reason, you will need a new driver's license.<sup>112</sup> Take your old license to a DMV office in person. You will be required to provide proof of your new, true full name.<sup>113</sup> A new picture and thumbprint will be taken. No additional examination will be given, but you must pay a \$22 fee.<sup>114</sup> Your old photo license will not be returned.

At the same time, ask for forms to change your vehicle registration if you have a vehicle registered in your name.

### Lost or Damaged License

If your driver's license or state identification card is lost or damaged, you must apply for a duplicate in person and pay a \$22 fee.<sup>115</sup>

If you are a minor, you must have your parents' or guardians' written permission.<sup>116</sup> You will be required to give a thumbprint or fingerprint, and a new picture will be taken. Once a duplicate license has been issued, the original license is no longer in effect and must be destroyed if

you find it later.<sup>117</sup>

### Unlawful Use of License

It is against the law for any person:

- To display or use any canceled, revoked, or suspended license.<sup>118</sup>
- To show or use someone else's license.<sup>119</sup>
- To keep any license after the DMV asks you to return it.<sup>120</sup>
- To let your driver's license be used illegally.<sup>121</sup>
- To make a copy of any driver's license so that it would look like a real license.<sup>122</sup>

### Negligent Driving and Loss of License

Your license can be taken away if you become an unsafe driver.<sup>123</sup> When a law enforcement officer stops you and cites you for a traffic law violation, you sign a promise to appear in traffic court.<sup>124</sup> There you may plead guilty or not guilty, or you may forfeit (pay) bail, which counts as a guilty plea.<sup>125</sup>

If you ignore the traffic ticket and don't keep your promise to appear in court, the failure to appear (FTA) may go on your driving record.<sup>126</sup> If you fail to pay (FTP) a fine, the court may notify DMV and may order it to show on your driving record.<sup>127</sup> Even one FTA or FTP may cause the DMV to suspend your license.<sup>128</sup> Ending the suspension will cost

you a reinstatement fee of \$125.<sup>129</sup>

Each time you are convicted of a moving traffic law violation, the court notifies the DMV.<sup>130</sup> A record of this conviction is placed in your driver's license file.<sup>131</sup>

**One point** is charged against you:

- In most traffic convictions involving the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway.<sup>132</sup>
- Normally, in any accident in which the DMV determines you are at fault.<sup>133</sup>
- If you are convicted of carrying a child under 6 years old and weighing less than 60 pounds without a child restraint system.<sup>134</sup>

**Two points** are charged against you if you are convicted of:<sup>135</sup>

- Reckless driving.
- Driving under the influence of liquor and/or any drug.
- Hitting an unattended vehicle without notifying the owner.
- Causing property damage, injury, or death by hit-and-run driving.
- Manslaughter (involving a vehicle).
- Causing injury or death with a vehicle while evading a peace officer.
- Driving on the wrong side of a divided highway.
- Participating in a speed

contest or exhibition of speed.

- illegal transport of explosives.
- driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Juvenile court findings of a traffic law violation are also reported to the DMV.<sup>136</sup> Any restriction, suspension or probation will continue past your 18th birthday for its full term.<sup>137</sup>

If you get too many "points," you will lose your driver's license.<sup>138</sup>

You may be considered a **negligent operator** of a motor vehicle when your driving record shows the following "point count," regardless of your license class:<sup>139</sup>

- 4 points in 12 months, or
- 6 points in 24 months, or
- 8 points in 36 months.

If you are a minor driving with a Provisional License and get more than one violation point in 12 months, you will be required to drive under adult supervision again. If further violations occur, your license will be suspended or revoked.<sup>140</sup>

If you receive certain convictions while operating a commercial vehicle, you will be charged 1½ times as many points.<sup>141</sup> Refer to the *California Commercial Driver Handbook* for additional information.

### **PARTICIPATION IN TRAFFIC VIOLATOR SCHOOL**

When you are cited for a traffic violation, the judge or the court may offer you the opportunity to

attend a Traffic Violator School. Drivers who participate may have their citation dismissed by the court.<sup>142</sup>

The course is intended to give participants an understanding of traffic safety by emphasizing driver responsibility, proper driver attitude, and traffic laws.<sup>143</sup>

Traffic Violator Schools are located throughout California.

### **YOUR DRIVING RECORD IS PUBLIC**

Most information in your driver's license file is open to the public.<sup>144</sup> Only law enforcement agencies, courts, other governmental agencies, and certain commercial requesters (such as financial institutions and insurance companies) may view your residence address.<sup>145</sup> Your mailing address, if different, is less restricted and may be given to requesters who provide a valid reason for wanting the information, such as for a pending lawsuit. Records of the physical or mental condition of a driver, however, are not public.<sup>146</sup>

The DMV may not sell or distribute the picture on your license, or any information about your physical characteristics, to private parties without your consent.<sup>147</sup>

You may obtain a copy of your driving record by requesting it at any DMV office and paying a small fee. You will be required to show valid identification before the information is released.

The DMV keeps a public record of

all your traffic convictions and crashes (except when shown by the reporting officer to be the fault of another) for 37 months, and of more serious convictions for up to 10 years.<sup>148</sup>

### **SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE**

If you receive too many negligent driver points, the DMV will suspend your license for six months or revoke your driving privilege.<sup>149</sup> You are entitled to a hearing if your request is postmarked or received within 10 days of your receiving the suspension or revocation order.<sup>150</sup>

At the hearing, a Driver Safety Referee will talk with you. You will have the opportunity to explain why your license should not be suspended or revoked.<sup>151</sup> If you are unable to persuade the referee, your license will be taken away for a limited time (suspended) and you will be placed on probation, or your license will be taken away (revoked) for a longer period of time, generally at least a year. At the end of the revocation period, you may apply for a new license if there are no other violations on your record. You must also show proof of financial responsibility (usually a card from your insurance company).<sup>152</sup> The DMV will immediately revoke your license if you are convicted of any of the following:<sup>153</sup>

- Hit-and-run driving or reckless driving that results in injury.
  - Any felony in which a vehicle is used.
  - Reckless driving causing bodily injury.
- Suspension of License by a Judge**

A judge may suspend the license of anyone convicted of breaking speed laws or reckless driving for up to 30 days on the first conviction, up to 60 days on a second conviction, and up to six months on a third or later conviction.<sup>154</sup>

Suspension of a driver's license by a court also may result from conviction for one of the following:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.<sup>155</sup>
- Hit-and-run.<sup>156</sup>
- Engaging in lewd conduct and prostitution in a vehicle within 1,000 feet of a residence.<sup>157</sup>
- Failure to stop as required at a railway grade crossing.<sup>158</sup>
- Felony or misdemeanor offense of willfully fleeing a law enforcement officer.<sup>159</sup>
- Assaulting a driver, passenger, bicyclist, or pedestrian when the offense occurs on a highway (road rage).<sup>160</sup>

Regardless of point count, many serious offenses in which a vehicle is used are punishable by heavy penalties such as loss of license,<sup>161</sup> fines and/or imprisonment. Examples are felony drunk driving, felony grand theft,

manslaughter, and driving under the influence of narcotics or other dangerous drugs. Pursuant to court order, the DMV must then-suspend or revoke the offender's driver's license.<sup>162</sup>

### **Driving with Suspended or Revoked License**

You can be fined and jailed if you drive with a suspended or revoked license<sup>163</sup>, and your vehicle may be impounded.<sup>164</sup> When the DMV notifies you by certified mail that your license has been suspended or revoked, the court presumes you know about the suspension or revocation.<sup>165</sup>

### **Safe Streets Act**

The DMV sends all notices of license suspension and revocation by certified mail.<sup>166</sup> If you are later caught driving with a suspended or revoked license, your vehicle may be impounded and sold.<sup>167</sup>

### **Reinstatement of Driving Privilege**

A person convicted of multiple DUIs within 10 years of a prior conviction can have his or her driving privileges reinstated provided he or she shows proof of completing the initial 12 months of either the 18-month or 30-month drinking driver treatment program, installs an ignition interlock device, and establishes proof of financial liability.<sup>168</sup>

### **Obeying Peace Officers**

If a peace officer signals for you to stop, you must comply. The

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officer may flash his or her vehicle lights or sound a siren, or if on a bicycle, use a horn, verbal command or hand signal to tell you to pull over. Attempting to evade, flee, or otherwise elude a pursuing officer puts you, the officer and other drivers in danger.

At the very least, you will face up to a year in a county jail.<sup>169</sup>

Drivers who attempt to flee while displaying willful or wanton dis-

regard for safety face further penalties, including six months to a year in a state prison or county jail, and/or fines of \$1,000-\$10,000. If, while attempting to flee, you cause another person serious bodily injury or death, you could be sentenced to three to five years in a state prison, a year in county jail, and/or fines of \$2,000-\$10,000.<sup>170</sup>

**If you're a AAA member, you can visit your local Auto Club office for most DMV transactions: DMV vehicle and vessel registrations, renewals, used vehicle transfers, new and used boat transfers, duplicate registrations and stickers, disabled license plate/parking placard application, driver's license change of address, personalized license plate applications, and release of liability.**



# LEARNING TO DRIVE

## Instruction Permit

If you want to use public roads while learning to drive, you must have an Instruction Permit.

You may use the permit to practice driving with an accompanying adult who is 18 years of age or older (25 years old if you are under age 18) with a valid California license.<sup>171</sup> This adult must be with you in the vehicle and close enough to take control of it at any time. An instruction permit does not permit you to drive alone,<sup>172</sup> not even to a DMV office to take the driving test.

To apply for an instruction permit, you must:

- Fill out the DMV application form. Signing this form means you have agreed to the following statement:

“I agree to submit to a chemical test of my blood, breath or urine for the purpose of determining the alcohol or drug content of my blood when testing is required by a peace officer acting in accordance with Sections 23137 or 23157 of the Vehicle Code.”<sup>173</sup>

If you refuse to sign the application form, DMV will not issue a permit or license.<sup>174</sup>

- Present an acceptable birth date/legal presence

document.<sup>175</sup> No matter what your age, bring an original or certified copy to the DMV the first time you apply for a permit or license.<sup>176</sup> It will be returned to you.

- Provide a social security number.<sup>177</sup>
- Pay the \$28 fee, which pays for both the instruction permit and the driver’s license, if you qualify for both within 12 months. If you fail the driving test, you must pay an additional \$6 fee for each driving test administered under that application. The fee must be paid when you apply and will not be returned.<sup>178</sup>
- Pass an eye exam.<sup>179</sup>
- Pass a traffic law and road sign test.<sup>180</sup>

To obtain an instruction permit to drive mopeds or motorcycles, you must be at least 15½ years old and provide proof you completed driver education and training (DL 356 or OL 238).<sup>181</sup> You cannot carry passengers (except your instructor) and you may not drive that vehicle during the hours of darkness or on the freeway.<sup>182</sup>

## REQUIREMENTS FOR MINOR DRIVERS

You are legally a minor if you are under 18 years old.<sup>183</sup> If you are a

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minor, your parents or guardian must sign your application for a license or any change of class.<sup>184</sup> They are also responsible if you are under 18 and drive without a license with their express or implied permission.<sup>185</sup>

To apply for an instruction permit, you also must:

- Be at least 15½ years old, but under 18 years of age.<sup>186</sup>
- Obtain your parents' or guardians' signatures on the application form.<sup>187</sup>

If you are 15½ years old or older, you may receive an instruction permit when you:

- have completed driver education and driver training;<sup>188</sup>
- have completed driver education and are taking driver training;<sup>189</sup> or
- are enrolled and participating in an integrated driver education program<sup>190</sup> (the Auto Club License to Learn program qualifies).

If you fail the written test, you must wait one week before taking it again.<sup>191</sup>

You may use the instruction permit to practice with a parent, guardian, spouse, driving instructor, or an adult 25 years of age or older, who has a valid California driver's license.<sup>192</sup> An exception exists for permit holders who operate a government-owned vehicle while taking

driver training as administered by the California National Guard.<sup>193</sup>

**Note: If you are age 15½, you may receive an instruction permit when you have completed driver education and driver training, or when you have completed driver education and are taking driver training, or when you are currently enrolled and participating in an integrated driver education program<sup>194</sup> (the Auto Club License to Learn program qualifies).**

### Permit Restrictions

You can receive an instruction permit at age 15½, but you cannot take the driver test or receive a provisional driver's license until you have held a permit for at least six months<sup>195</sup> and are at least 16 years old.<sup>196</sup>

### Requirements for Individuals Age 17½ and Over:

If you are over 17½ years old and complete all the other steps required for a permit, you may be issued an instruction permit without driver education or driver training.<sup>197</sup>

However, to obtain a driver's license, you must show proof you have completed driver education and driver training (DL 356, OL 237, or OL 238 or wait until you are 18 years old.

## DRIVING SCHOOLS

Because the driver training you receive will mark your driving habits for the rest of your life, you should seek qualified instruction when learning to drive. Attending a driving school is not required if you are over age 18 when you apply for a license, but it is a good idea. Both driver education (in a classroom) and driver training (behind the wheel) can be given in a public or private high school, adult education class, or by a state-licensed driving school.

Professional schools and instructors in California are licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles after meeting qualifying standards.<sup>198</sup> Schools must carry liability insurance,<sup>199</sup> be bonded,<sup>200</sup> and maintain records for DMV inspection.<sup>201</sup> Cars must be maintained in a safe mechanical condition.<sup>202</sup> Instructors must pass qualifying examinations every three years or show proof of continuing education in the traffic-safety field.<sup>203</sup> If you use the services of a professional driving school, ask to see the instructor's identification card.

A high school may issue a student license to a person who is over 15 years old and has the written consent of a parent or guardian.<sup>204</sup> A student license lets you drive only during school-supervised instruction.<sup>205</sup>

Licensed driving schools issue two types of restricted licenses:

- A student license to a person between 15 and up to 17½ years of age.<sup>206</sup>
- A student license to a person 17½ years of age and older.<sup>207</sup>

A restricted license from a driving school only lets you drive during professional driver training.<sup>208</sup>

## LICENSE FOR NEW RESIDENTS

When you make your home or take a job here, you must get a California driver's license within 10 days.<sup>209</sup> If you have a valid driver's license from another state or another country and want a California driver's license, you must:

- be at least 18 years of age.
- complete all the steps required for an instruction permit (discussed above).

Driving tests are required for out-of-country license holders.<sup>210</sup> For license renewal, or holders of out-of-state or U.S. territory licenses, driving tests are normally waived by the DMV.<sup>211</sup> It is important to note, however, that the DMV may require a driving test for any type of application.

Bring your current out-of-state license with you and a birth certificate or passport. No California driver's license can be given to you until you surrender to the DMV any valid license issued to you by any other state or country.<sup>212</sup>

### The Driver's License Examination

You may take the written, vision, and driving tests at any DMV office that provides driver's license services.

Your examination for a driver's license includes the following:<sup>213</sup>

- A vision test.<sup>214</sup> If you need glasses to pass this test, you should wear them. Your license will be marked to show that you must wear glasses while driving.
- A test of traffic laws and driving safety rules, to find out if you know how to handle your vehicle in keeping with the laws.<sup>215</sup> (The tests are available in some foreign languages, but all drivers must show ability to read and understand simple English as used in highway traffic and directional signs.)<sup>216</sup>
- A road sign test, including bikeway signs, road markings and traffic control devices.<sup>217</sup>
- A driving test (see below).<sup>218</sup>

If you want a Class A, B, or M license, or any special certificate, you must take more tests. (See the DMV's *Commercial Driver Handbook* for Class A and B requirements and the DMV's *Motorcycle Handbook* for Class M1 and M2 requirements.)

#### THE VISION TEST

The DMV vision guideline is 20/40 visual acuity with or with-

out glasses. Visual acuity is measured for both eyes together and then for each eye separately while both eyes remain open. The DMV shall not issue a license to any person with a corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or worse in the better eye.<sup>219</sup> You may not use a bioptic or similar lens to meet this standard. There are two methods of testing:

- The *Snellen Chart* contains five lines of letters and measures general visual acuity.
- The *Optec 1000 Vision Tester* obtains a more precise vision score through a test situation that simulates the applicant reading a test target at the other end of a room 26 feet long.

A permit or temporary license will not be issued if you fail the eye exam.

#### THE DRIVING TEST

Call a local DMV office to make an appointment to take the driving test (the test is not given without an appointment).

You must provide the vehicle to be used during the driving test. It must be in safe operating condition and currently and properly registered for legal use on public streets and highways. You must also show proof of financial responsibility.<sup>220</sup>

Seat belts in good working order are required in automobiles built in 1968 and later,<sup>221</sup> in trucks

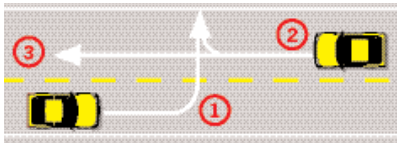
built in 1972 and later (weighing less than 6,000 pounds), and in house cars. Two front seat belts in good working order are required in automobiles built between 1962 and 1967.<sup>222</sup> If you refuse to use your seat belts during the driving test, the test will not be given.<sup>223</sup>

Be ready to show your vehicle's turn signals, dimmer switch, and other controls.

You will be asked to show that you know arm signals. You must use the vehicle's turn signals if the vehicle is equipped with them.

*No child, other person, or animal may be in the vehicle with you and the examiner during the driving test.*

The examiner will give you directions. You will not be tricked or asked to do anything against the law. The examiner may ask you to back up in a straight line and turn the vehicle around on a narrow two-way street ("three-point turn" or "turnabout," as shown).



During the test, the examiner will score you on the following:

- *How you start your vehicle.* When leaving the curb, do you look for passing vehicles? Do you give a good signal and wait until it is safe to enter traffic?

- *How you keep control of your vehicle.* Do you use the gas pedal, brake, steering wheel, and other controls correctly?
- *How you drive.* Do you use the proper lane? Do you change lanes carefully and with the proper signal and follow other vehicles at a safe distance? When driving away from the curb or changing lanes, do you turn your head to look back rather than rely entirely on your side- or rear-view mirrors?
- *How you drive through blind or crowded intersections.* Do you pay attention to signs and signals, the right-of-way, pedestrians, and other vehicles?
- *How you steer your vehicle.* Do you turn from the proper lane and into the proper lane, signaling the turn in advance and at the proper distance from it? Do you turn too widely or too sharply?
- *How you stop.* Do you stop smoothly and at the proper place? Can you stop quickly and safely in an emergency?
- *How you back the vehicle.* Do you back in a straight line? Do you keep the vehicle fully under control?
- *How you control your speed.* Do you give attention to the number and speed of nearby vehicles, people crossing the street, the condition of the pavement, the weather, the amount of light, and the

distance you can see at the time the examination is being given?

- *How you judge distance.* Do you keep a safe distance when following and passing vehicles and when passing by people walking or cycling on the highway?
- *How you respect the rights of others.*
- *Whether you pay full attention to the job of driving.*

At the end of the driving test, the examiner will give you your score sheet, which you are welcome to discuss.

### The Provisional License

If you are under 18 years old, you will receive a Provisional License when you pass your licensing exam. The provisional license is a distinctively marked license with certain driving restrictions.<sup>224</sup> It is important to note that a minor's license looks different. The distinctive colored stripe identifies the special alcohol prohibitions for minors.<sup>225</sup>

To apply for a provisional license, in addition to the other requirements, you also must:

- Provide a parent's signature (certain other persons may sign) on your instruction permit stating that you have completed all the driving practice outlined in the DMV's Parent-Teen Training Aid.<sup>226</sup>

- Complete 50 hours of supervised driving practice (10 of these hours must be completed at night). Your parents must certify to this training.<sup>227</sup>

If you fail the behind-the-wheel driving test, you must wait two weeks before you can be tested again.<sup>228</sup>

An exemption to the Provisional Licensing Law exists for enlistees of the California National Guard, ages 16 to 18, while operating U.S. Army or California National Guard vehicles during the course and scope of their duties in the California National Guard.<sup>229</sup>

### PROVISIONAL LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

You may drive alone with your provisional license as long as you are not involved in crashes or have traffic violations. If you get more than one violation point in 12 months, you will be required to drive under adult supervision again. If further violations occur, your license will be suspended or revoked.<sup>230</sup> **The following restrictions apply:**

- During the **first year** after you are licensed you may not carry passengers under age 20 unless you are accompanied by a licensed driver 25 years of age or older. You must be accompanied by a licensed driver 25 years of age or older if you drive between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.<sup>231</sup>

When you become 18 years old, the “provisional” part of your license ends.<sup>232</sup> You may keep the photo license you have, which will expire on the fifth birthday after the date you applied for it, or you may apply for a duplicate license without the word “provisional” and pay a \$21 fee for a duplicate license.

### **TEMPORARY LICENSE**

After you have passed all the tests, the DMV will take your picture.<sup>233</sup> If you are over 18 years

old, you will be given a temporary license, valid for 60 days.<sup>234</sup> Regular driver’s licenses are mailed from the DMV headquarters. You will receive your photo driver’s license within a few weeks unless your record shows a reason why it shouldn’t be issued. If you have not heard from the DMV headquarters within 60 days, you should go to your nearest DMV office to notify them.

Your driver’s license will expire on your fifth birthday after the day you applied for it.<sup>235</sup>

**Drivers licensed less than three years may now qualify to receive a discount of up to 10 percent on their premium when they’re insured through the Auto Club’s affiliated Interinsurance Exchange. Insurance provided to qualified members by the Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club, or by independent insurance carriers. CA Dept. Insurance Lic. #0003259**

# INSURANCE

## Financial Responsibility

California's Compulsory Financial Responsibility Law requires every driver and every owner of a motor vehicle to maintain financial responsibility at all times.<sup>236</sup>

There are four forms of financial responsibility:

1. Coverage by a motor vehicle liability insurance policy.<sup>237</sup>
2. A deposit of \$35,000 with the DMV.<sup>238</sup>
3. A surety bond for the same amount obtained from a company licensed to do business in California.<sup>239</sup>
4. DMV-approved self insurance.<sup>240</sup>

Most drivers choose to have an automobile liability insurance policy as proof of financial responsibility. This insurance must provide at least these amounts for one crash:<sup>241</sup>

- \$15,000 for a single death or injury.
- \$30,000 for death or injury to more than one person.
- \$5,000 for property damage.

You must carry written proof of financial responsibility whenever you drive.<sup>242</sup> Proof of insurance may also be established by electronic verification, if

available.<sup>243</sup> Insurance companies furnish an identification card as evidence of coverage; this card must include:<sup>244</sup>

- Name of the person(s) covered by the policy.
- Year, make and vehicle identification number (VIN) of the vehicle.
- The name, National Association of Insurance Commissioners number, and address of the insurer providing the policy.
- The policy number and effective date.
- A statement from the insurer that the policy meets the financial responsibility requirement.

If you don't have this evidence to show a peace officer after a citation stop or crash, you may have to pay a fine and a court may impound your vehicle.<sup>245</sup> The court can order you to purchase insurance.<sup>246</sup> You can also be fined and/or imprisoned if you provide false evidence of financial responsibility, and your driver's license will be suspended or restricted for one year.<sup>247</sup> Certain low-income "good drivers" (as defined by the law) may be eligible to purchase low-cost, lower-limit policies that will satisfy the



law's financial responsibility requirement. Additional eligibility conditions apply (for example, the insured vehicle cannot be valued at more than \$20,000). These policies offer coverage in the following amounts:

- \$10,000 for a single death or injury.
- \$20,000 for death or injury to more than one person.
- \$3,000 for property damage.

More information about these policies is available through the California Department of Insurance.

New residents and visitors from other states are cautioned that many out-of-state insurance companies are not authorized to do business in California. Should you become involved in a crash in California and you are insured by a company that is not recognized by California, you must meet **all three** of the following conditions to avoid suspension of your driving privilege:

1. Your liability policy must provide bodily injury and property damage coverage that equals or exceeds the minimums stated above;<sup>248</sup> **and**
2. Your insurance company must file a power of attorney, allowing the DMV to act as its agent for legal service in California;<sup>249</sup> **and**

3. You must have insured your vehicle before you came to California.

If you are under 18 years of age, your parents, or the guardian who consented (expressed or implied) to your driving, must accept liability up to \$35,000 for any one crash.<sup>250</sup> This assumption of liability automatically ends when you reach age 18. However, the owner of an automobile retains some liability if they permit you to use the vehicle. It may also be voided for the person who signed your license, when that person notifies the DMV to have the license canceled.<sup>251</sup> If you are involved in a crash, you may be liable for damages, and if it involved a law violation, you may also be fined.

### **ADDITIONAL PENALTIES — NO INSURANCE**

State law requires you to be financially responsible whenever you drive and for all motor vehicles you own. It is illegal to drive without being financially responsible. If you have a crash, you may pay a stiff fine and lose your driver's license for at least one year and up to four years.<sup>252</sup> If the driver is not identified, the vehicle owner will have his or her license suspended.<sup>253</sup>

## **32 Insurance**

Competitively priced auto insurance, including insurance for motorcycles and RVs, is available through the Auto Club's affiliated Interinsurance Exchange. For a free quote, call or visit your local Auto Club office. Insurance provided to qualified Auto Club members by the Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club, or by independent insurance carriers. CA Dept. Insurance Lic. #0003259

# SIGNS AND SIGNALS

## Important Road Signs

### STOP SIGN



A STOP sign means that you must make a full stop before entering a crosswalk or crossing a clearly marked “limit

line.”<sup>254</sup> A limit line is a wide white line painted on the street.<sup>255</sup> Where a crosswalk or limit line is not marked, stop before entering the intersection roadway.<sup>256</sup> Before proceeding, you must check for approaching traffic and yield the right-of-way to any traffic that could be dangerous.

On divided highways, a STOP sign for crossing or turning vehicles is often placed on the island or dividing strip. You must also stop there.

### YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY SIGN



When you come to this sign, you must slow down and be prepared to stop if necessary. You must

yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles approaching on the cross street or roadway.<sup>257</sup>

## WRONG WAY, DO NOT ENTER



The DO NOT ENTER sign tells you danger is ahead because vehicles will be coming toward you. The WRONG WAY sign may be used with the DO NOT ENTER sign. If you see either of these signs, do not proceed. This is illegal and very dangerous. Pull over and stop. You are going against traffic. When safe, back out or turn around and return to the road you were on. At night, road reflectors will shine red in your headlights when you are going the wrong way.

## TURN SIGNS



A red circle with a slanted red slash always means “NO.” The picture inside the circle shows what

is not permitted. The sign may be posted with or without the wording under it.



NO RIGHT  
TURN



NO LEFT  
TURN



NO U  
TURN

## 34 Signs and Signals

### WARNING SIGNS

Many road signs warn you to slow down or watch for hazards ahead. Most warning signs are yellow and shaped like a diamond. Some common warning signs are shown below. It is a crime to fail to obey a sign or a signal that has been erected to enhance traffic safety.<sup>258</sup>



Crossroad  
(another  
road crosses  
up ahead)



Traffic  
Signal  
Ahead



Merging  
Traffic



Lane Ends  
Merge Left



Divided  
Highway



Pedestrian  
Crosswalk



Road Curves or Right/Left

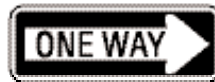
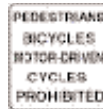
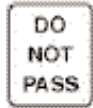


Lane Ends Merge Right/Left



Slippery When Wet

### REGULATORY SIGNS



Black-and-white regulatory signs such as these tell you what to do. You must obey them just like traffic laws.

**GUIDE SIGNS**



Informational signs come in blue, green, or brown and tell drivers what services are available in the area.

**HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE SIGNS**



Orange signs with black type inform drivers about temporary road conditions ahead.

**SCHOOL SIGNS**



Signs that warn of school areas and crossings are very important. Children (especially young ones) are often unpredictable in their actions and may be hard to see. Always

use extreme caution and slow down when entering school areas. Remember, the speed limit is only 25 mph or slower<sup>259</sup> in a school zone when children are present.<sup>260</sup> Over time, lime-green signs will replace the yellow school zone signs. There is no timetable for this conversion.

**HIGHWAY CHANGES**



After you pass any of these signs there will be no median barrier between you and vehicles coming toward you on the other side of the road.

**Traffic Signal Lights**

Traffic signal lights, signs and right-of-way rules tell you when to go or stop at an intersection.

This is what the colors of traffic lights mean:



A red signal light means STOP.<sup>261</sup> You can make a right turn against a red light after you stop and yield to pedestrians and vehicles in your path.<sup>262</sup> DO NOT turn if there is a sign posted for NO TURN ON RED.

## 36 Signs and Signals



A **red arrow** means STOP until the green signal or green arrow appears. You may not make a turn against a red arrow.<sup>263</sup>

A **flashing red traffic light or arrow** means exactly the same as a stop sign: STOP.<sup>264</sup> But after stopping, you may proceed when safe, observing the right-of-way rules.



A green signal light means GO, but after the signal changes to green, you must let any vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians remaining in the intersection get across the street before you move ahead.<sup>265</sup> Look to be sure that all cross traffic has stopped before you enter the intersection. Make a left turn only if you have enough space to complete the turn before any oncoming traffic becomes a hazard. Do not enter the intersection, even when the light is green, unless there is enough space to completely cross before the light turns red.<sup>266</sup> If heavy traffic ahead of you causes you to block traffic in an intersection, you can be cited.



A **green arrow** means GO, but you must yield to any vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian still in the intersection.<sup>267</sup> The green arrow pointing right or left allows you to make a “protected” turn; oncoming traffic is stopped by a

red light as long as the green arrow is lighted.



A **yellow signal light** warns you that the red signal is about to appear.<sup>268</sup> When you see the yellow light, you should stop if you can do so safely.

A **yellow arrow** means that the “protected” turning time period is ending.<sup>270</sup> Be prepared to obey the next signal, which could be a green or red light or a red arrow.



A **flashing yellow signal light** warns you to be careful.<sup>269</sup> Slow down and be especially alert. Proceed with caution. A **flashing yellow arrow** warns of a hazard. Slow down and be especially alert.<sup>271</sup>

**Traffic signal blackout.** If no traffic signals are working because of an electrical power failure, you must stop at the intersection and then proceed when it is safe to do so. Other turning and approaching vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians will also be stopping.<sup>272</sup> A blacked-out traffic signal is the same as a stop sign–controlled intersection in all directions.

## Pedestrian Signals



Many street crossings have pedestrian signals that show the words

WALK and DON'T WALK, or show a walking person in white and a raised hand in orange. These signals direct pedestrians (not drivers) while crossing the street. The WALK or walking person appears when it is legal to start crossing.<sup>273</sup> When the DON'T WALK or raised hand appears,

you may not start across the street.<sup>274</sup> When the signal begins to flash, you should not begin to cross because you may not have enough time to make it to the other side before vehicles start moving across your path. If the flashing signal starts after you have already started to cross, you may finish crossing the street.<sup>275</sup>

At a crossing where there are no special pedestrian signals, walkers must obey the red,<sup>276</sup> yellow,<sup>277</sup> or green<sup>278</sup> signal lights.

# DRIVING RULES

## Starting

You should always adjust your seat, mirrors, and seat belt before starting the car.

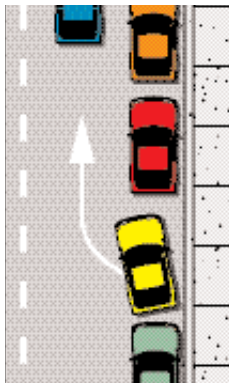
For best control, adjust your seat height so the top of the steering wheel is in line with the top of your shoulders. Do this before putting on your seat belt. If you can't see the road 12 feet beyond the front of your vehicle, use a wedge-shape seat cushion.

Before you start driving, also adjust your rear-view and side mirrors. If your vehicle has a day/night mirror, make sure it's in the proper setting. The night setting improves your visibility by reducing the headlight glare from the cars behind you.

Be sure all doors are closed and locked, and fasten your seat and shoulder belts. Make sure everybody in the car does the same. Seat belts are required for all pas-

sengers and the driver.<sup>279</sup>

When starting from a parking place at the curb, look for bicycles and vehicles approaching from the rear. Use



your left turn signal if you are leaving the right side of the street. If you are leaving the left side of a one-way street, use your right turn signal. Don't assume that other drivers have seen your signal.

Drive out slowly. Remember, you don't have the right of way.<sup>280</sup>

When backing out of a parking space, never assume that all is clear behind you. Don't rely on your rear-view mirror. Look back over your shoulder, keeping the area behind your vehicle in view. Back out slowly.

You must yield the right of way to all traffic when there is no traffic signal and you are about to enter or cross a highway from any public or private property or from an alley. Traffic refers to pedestrians and ridden animals as well as vehicles.

## On the Road

### DRIVE TO THE RIGHT

Drive on the right side of the roadway, except:<sup>281</sup>

- When passing vehicles going in your direction.
- When turning left.
- When the right half of the roadway is closed or blocked.
- On a one-way road.
- When the roadway is not wide enough.



**DON'T WEAVE**

Stay in one traffic lane as much as possible. Before changing lanes, check your mirrors for vehicles that may be ready to pass you; also turn your head and check beside your vehicle. Signal to any other vehicle that may be affected by your lane change.<sup>282</sup> Be sure to turn off your turn signals after the lane change.

**DON'T FOLLOW TOO CLOSELY**

Most rear-end collisions are caused by following too closely. To get a good distance between you and the vehicle ahead, the DMV suggests using the “three-second rule.” When the vehicle ahead of you passes a reference point, such as a sign, count “one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three.” This takes about three seconds. If you pass the reference point before you finish counting, *you are following too closely*. At faster speeds the distance should be greater.

Sometimes you will need more than a three-second cushion.

Give yourself more room:

- In adverse weather (rain, snow, fog, etc.).
- On poorly maintained or wet roads.
- When following large vehicles that may block your view ahead.
- When you see a bus, school bus, or vehicle carrying flammables.

If you find yourself crowded by a tailgater, increase the space between your car and the vehicle in front of you. If you must slow down, you can do so gradually and lessen your chances of being struck from behind. Encourage a tailgater to pass you by slowing gradually and moving to the right side of the lane or roadway.

**LOOK TO THE SIDES**

Stay alert to the vehicle and pedestrian traffic around you, especially at intersections, where people are likely to cross in front of you. An intersection is any place where one lane of traffic meets another, including cross streets, side streets, alleys, and freeway entrances.

As you approach the intersection, scan the roadway from side to side to ensure you can enter it safely. Look left (since cars coming from this direction are closer to you), right, and left again. Do this even when traffic is controlled by traffic signals. Other drivers don't always obey stop signs and traffic lights. Parked cars or buildings may obstruct your view of a cross street. If you can't see, don't proceed. Edge forward slowly until the view is clear.

**LOOKING BEHIND**

Developing skills to check traffic behind you will help you avoid crashes when conditions change suddenly.

Get in the habit of frequently monitoring the traffic behind

## 40 Driving Rules

you. The sooner you notice a driver who is tailgating or approaching too fast, the greater your chances of avoiding a rear-end collision. Always look behind you before changing lanes, slowing down quickly, backing up, or driving down a long or steep hill (large vehicles going downhill can gather speed very quickly).

Before you change lanes on a freeway or other roadway, enter a freeway from an onramp, or pull into traffic from a shoulder or curb, make sure that your actions will not interfere with current traffic flow. Signal and check the traffic to your rear and sides. Glance in all mirrors, then glance over your shoulder in the direction you plan to move to check for vehicles in your blind spot. Unless you use mirrors with curved surfaces, a vehicle five feet or more from the side of your car typically will not be visible unless it is more than 75 feet behind you.

A good rule for mirror usage is this: If a situation ahead calls for possible speed or position adjustment (when you must slow down suddenly, or are preparing to enter a side street, driveway, or parking space), check your rear- and side-view mirrors.

Backing up is always dangerous because it is difficult to see what is behind your vehicle. Follow these rules when backing up, including from a parking space:

Before entering your vehicle, walk behind it to check for children, pets and other obstacles that may be difficult to see from the driver's seat. Hundreds of children are killed annually by backing vehicles.

Turn and look over your right shoulder when backing. Do not just look in your mirror or out a side window.

Always back slowly. Your car is much harder to control and stop while backing.

### **SPACE TO CROSS OR ENTER**

Give yourself a wide enough gap—about half a block on city streets and a full block on the highway—to safely cross or enter traffic from a full stop. This will give you enough time to reach the speed of other vehicles approaching in either direction.

Turn or cross lanes only when you are sure you can make it all the way through the intersection. Look for cars or pedestrians blocking your route. Getting stuck in an intersection with traffic coming at you is dangerous and could get you a citation for blocking traffic. It is illegal to enter an intersection—even when you have a green light—if there is not enough space for you to completely cross it.

Don't assume other drivers will act as you expect them to. For example, in an approaching car whose signal is on when

approaching an intersection, the driver may be intending to turn right after the intersection, or the signal may still be on from a previous turn. Motorcycle signal lights don't always turn off by themselves. Wait until the other driver begins turning (or continues driving straight ahead) before you cross that vehicle's lane.

**SIGNALING**

Signal lights let other road users know your plans. Use them even when you don't notice other cars around. Traffic conditions can change suddenly.

Signal:

- Before turning or changing lanes. Signal, look over your shoulder to check the blind spot, then make your lane change. Note that signal lights can be hard to see on sunny days. On these days, using arm signals in addition to vehicle turn signals is advised.
- During the last 100 feet before making a turn or at least five seconds before changing lanes on a freeway.
- Before pulling up to or away from a curb.
- When changing direction.

Don't signal too early. It can send the wrong message to other drivers who may pull out in front of you. If you plan to turn beyond an intersection, for example, wait to signal until your vehicle is

actually in the intersection. Also, be careful when planning to turn at an intersection near a business driveway. To avoid confusing drivers exiting the business, signal after the driveway but before the intersection.

Check your signal after completing your turn. If it's still blinking, switch it off.

Nearly 30 percent of all reported collisions are rear-end crashes. Never stop on the road unless it's necessary for safety reasons or to obey a law. To reduce the chance of being struck from behind, it is essential that you check to the rear and tap the break pedal quickly three or four times (or use your emergency flashers) to alert drivers behind you that you are about to stop. You can also indicate your intention to stop by giving an arm signal. Hold the steering wheel with your right hand and extend your left arm out the window and down, palm facing to the rear. Arm signals provide an additional safety measure when there is an increased chance of being struck from behind, such as when you are in a line of moving traffic.

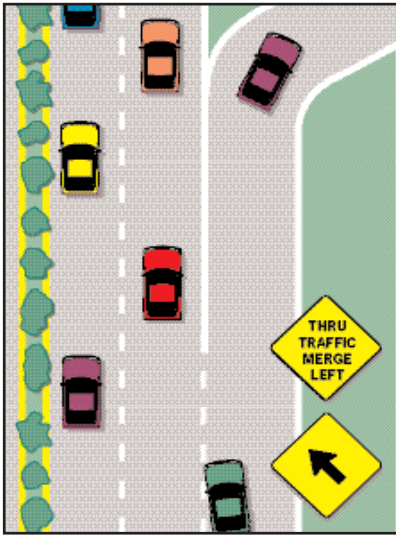
**Lines and Lanes**

**WHITE LINES**

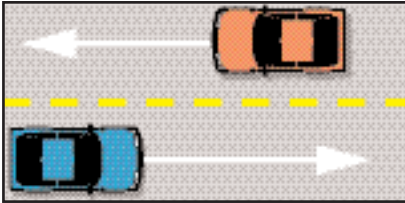
White lines painted on the roadway separate traffic going in the same direction (such as one-way streets). A **solid white line** marks the edge of the road. On roads

## 42 Driving Rules

with two or more lanes going in your direction, **broken white lines** separate lanes.



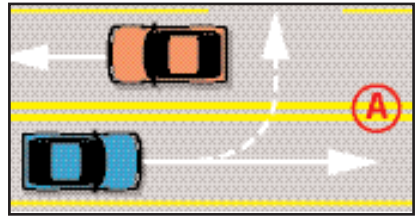
**Heavy broken white lines** usually mark freeway lanes and city street lanes that are ending. If you are driving in a lane marked with these lines, be prepared to exit or for the lane to end. Look for a traffic sign or painted street markings to tell you what to do ("Right Lane Must Exit," "Thru Traffic Merge Left," etc.).



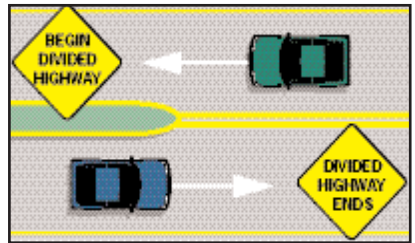
### YELLOW LINES

Yellow lines separate traffic lanes moving in opposite directions. (Solid double yellow lines are also used to separate HOV (carpool)

lanes from traffic moving in the same direction.) A **broken yellow line** in the center of a two-way roadway tells you that passing and turning are allowed in both directions. Where a **solid and broken yellow line** are together, you must not pass if you are next to the solid line.<sup>283</sup> A left turn across this marking to enter or leave the roadway is allowed if it can be made safely.<sup>284</sup> (Circled letters correspond to the illustrations.)

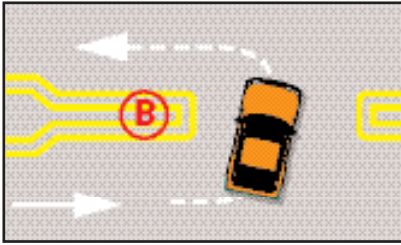


**A** A **solid double yellow line** is a no-passing line and separates traffic moving in opposite directions. Never cross it to pass another vehicle.<sup>285</sup> The line may be crossed only to enter or leave a driveway or private road, or to make a permitted U-turn, and only when safe.<sup>286</sup>

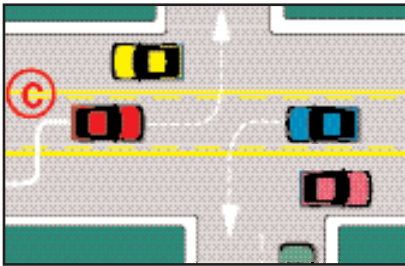


The sign "DIVIDED HIGHWAY ENDS" is placed where a separation strip or barrier ends, warning

you that approaching traffic will be separated from you only by painted lines on the highway.



**B** Two sets of solid double yellow lines mark a strip of pavement two or more feet wide. Such lines represent a solid barrier. Don't drive on or over such a strip. You may not make a left turn or U-turn across it. Only cross at plainly marked openings.



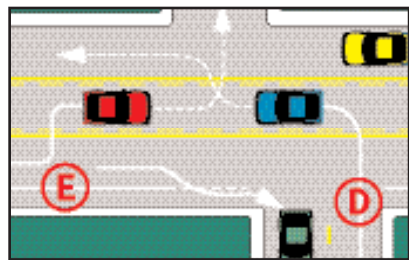
**C** This shows a **center left-turn lane** in the middle of a two-way street.<sup>287</sup> The lane is bordered on either side by two painted lines—the inner line is broken and the outer line is continuous.<sup>288</sup> Use this lane only when you want to turn left to leave a street, when turning left into the street, or to start a permitted U-turn.<sup>289</sup>

To turn left from the street, signal for a left turn and drive completely inside the lane. Don't stop at an angle with the rear of your vehicle blocking traffic. Turn only when it is safe.<sup>290</sup> Look for vehicles approaching you from the opposite direction in the same lane to make their left turns.

You may only drive for 200 feet in the center left-turn lane.<sup>291</sup> This is to prevent drivers from using this lane as a regular traffic lane or as a passing lane.

**D** To turn left from a side street or driveway, drive into the center left-turn lane when it is safe, then signal your intent to move into the normal flow of traffic and make the move when it is safe.<sup>292</sup>

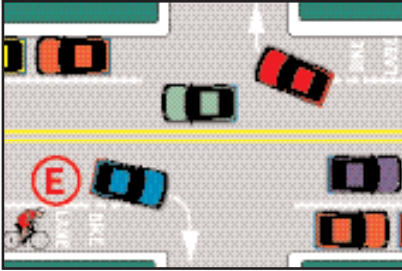
You must also use this lane to start a U-turn if it is permitted<sup>293</sup> (see U-turns, page 49).



**E** A **bicycle lane** is shown by a solid white line along either side of the street, four or more feet from the curb. The line will usually be broken near the corner. The words BIKE LANE are painted on the pavement at intervals.

## 44 Driving Rules

Don't drive in a bike lane, except to park or when preparing to turn at an intersection or driveway. Enter the bike lane no more than 200 feet from the intersection or driveway before your turn.<sup>294</sup> Always watch for bicycles before entering the bike lane.



Motor vehicles may park within the bike lane unless otherwise prohibited.<sup>295</sup>

Pedestrians are not allowed in bike lanes when sidewalks are provided.<sup>296</sup> Drivers of motorized bicycles may use bike lanes with special consideration toward bicyclists.<sup>297</sup>

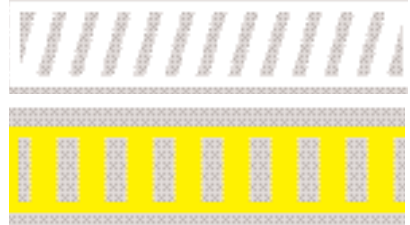
### END-OF-LANE MARKINGS

Thick broken lines along freeway or surface road lanes tell drivers that their lane is ending. Drivers must prepare to exit or merge into the adjacent lane. A sign may provide specific instruction such as merge right or left, or exit.

### CROSSWALKS

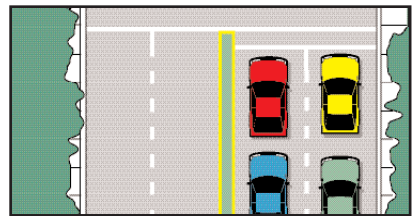
Every intersection where streets with sidewalks meet at about right angles has a crosswalk for pedestrians to cross the street. The

crosswalk is that part of the pavement where the sidewalk lines would extend across the street.<sup>298</sup>



Many pedestrian crosswalks are marked by solid white lines. Yellow crosswalks may be painted at school intersections. Some crosswalks, especially in residential areas, are not marked. Most crosswalks are at intersections, but sometimes they are in the middle of a block.<sup>299</sup>

### LIMIT LINES



White lines that are one foot or more wide, painted across traffic lanes, mark where you must stop your vehicle at intersections. This keeps you out of the way of pedestrians and cross traffic. These wide lines are called limit lines.

### Passing Another Vehicle

You should never drive off the paved or main traveled portion of the roadway to pass.<sup>300</sup> A solid

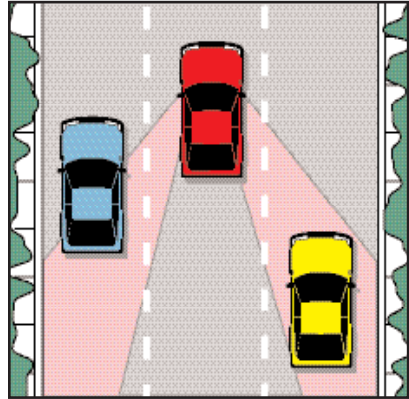
white line painted on the road surface marks the edge of the road. When you want to pass a vehicle traveling in your direction, pass to the left.<sup>301</sup> Passing to the right is permitted under the following conditions:<sup>302</sup>

- If an open highway is clearly marked for two or more lanes of vehicles moving in your direction of travel.
- In a business or residential district where the pavement is wide enough for two or more lanes of vehicles moving in the direction you are going.
- If the driver of the other vehicle is making or is about to make a left turn.<sup>303</sup> Never pass to the left of a driver who has signaled a left turn.
- On a one-way street.

Never change lanes until you are sure the lane is clear. Don't rely on rear-view mirrors alone. Check your blind spot (areas to the right and left that can't be seen in your rear-view mirror) by looking over your shoulder on the side to which you are going to move.

Signal to any drivers ahead or behind you that you are going to change lanes.<sup>304</sup>

Make sure you have time and room to get all the way in front of the vehicle you are passing, without creating danger for vehicles coming toward you.<sup>305</sup> Wait until you can see the front of the vehi-



cle you have passed in your rear-view mirror, look over your shoulder to the side to be sure the lane is clear, then return to the lane on the right. This applies to motorcycles, bicycles, and mopeds, too.

Always use extreme caution when passing other vehicles on two-lane roads or on a hill or curve. Pay attention to the lane markings, which may indicate a no-passing zone. Never try to pass when your view is blocked.

You **MUST NOT** drive on the left side of a roadway.<sup>306</sup>

- When coming to a curve or the top of a hill where you can't see enough of the roadway ahead to be sure of passing safely.
- At a street crossing or within 100 feet of it.
- At a railroad crossing or within 100 feet of it.
- Within 100 feet of a bridge, tunnel, or viaduct where your view is blocked.

## 46 Driving Rules

Before you pass another vehicle, look ahead for road conditions and traffic that may cause other cars to move over into your lane.

When another vehicle comes up behind you and sounds its horn or flashes its lights, move to the right when safe and let it pass, unless passing on the right is permitted.<sup>307</sup>

It is a good idea to move over even if you are traveling at the posted speed limit.

You should never speed up when another vehicle is passing you.

### Right-of-Way

Right-of-way rules are an aid to safe and smooth traffic flow. They emphasize courtesy, common sense, and cooperation. They apply to all road users, including moped and bicycle users. Never insist on taking the right-of-way. If other drivers are not following the rules, let them have the right-of-way even if it belongs to you. You will help prevent crashes and make driving more pleasant.

Do not always insist on others going ahead of you, either. If another driver expects you to take your legal turn, you may delay traffic by stopping or slowing unnecessarily for another person to go ahead of you.

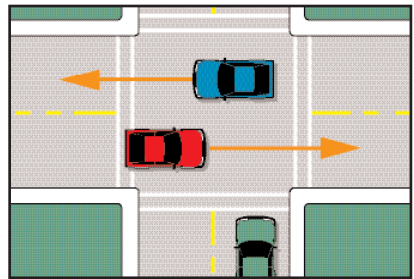
### THE RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES

At intersections without STOP or YIELD signs or traffic signals, the first vehicle in the intersection

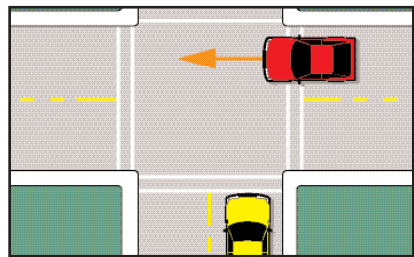
should be allowed to go ahead.<sup>308</sup> At a T intersection, vehicles on the through road have the right-of-way.<sup>309</sup>

When you see a vehicle crossing or beginning to cross the road ahead of you, slow down, prepare to stop, and let it go ahead.

### Examples of Right-of-Way Rules

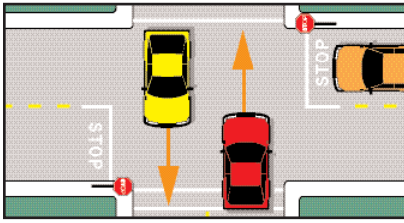


**First vehicle rule**—At all intersections without STOP or YIELD signs, slow down and be prepared to stop. Yield to vehicles already in the intersection or about to enter it.<sup>310</sup>

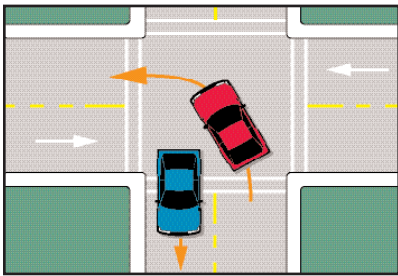


**Same time rule**—At all intersections without STOP or YIELD signs, or with stops in all directions, yield to the vehicle on your right if it has reached the intersection at the same time as your vehicle.<sup>311</sup>





**Stop signs**—Stop at any limit line or crosswalk. Yield to all approaching vehicles on the through street. Go only when it is safe for you to cross. Approaching vehicles should slow down and allow you to get across safely.



**Left turn**—Signal left turn and yield to approaching traffic until it is completely safe to finish the turn.

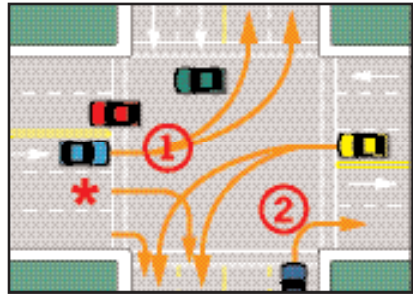
## URNS

You must give a signal before you turn, change lanes, or move right or left on a roadway if your move affects any other traffic.<sup>312</sup> If your vehicle is equipped with turn signals, you must use them and not just hand and arm signals.

On right turns, look for bicycles and motorcycles between your vehicle and the curb and stay in the right-hand lanes of both streets.<sup>313</sup> Don't turn wide (see

exception under Number 6, on proceeding page). On left turns, avoid turning too soon and cutting the corner of the lane belonging to cross traffic. On all turns, look for pedestrians crossing the street.

The diagrams on this page and on pages 48 and 49 show common turn situations. The numbered vehicles in the illustrations correspond to the paragraphs following them.



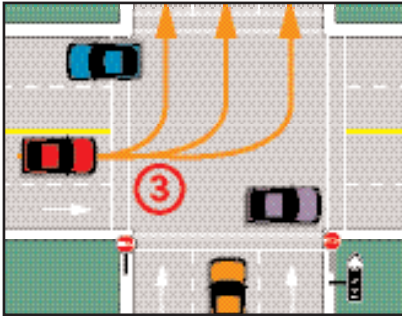
**1** **Left turn** from a two-way street: Start the turn at the left-hand edge of the lane closest to the middle of the street. You may complete the turn in either lane of the cross street (as shown by arrows) if it is safe to do so.<sup>314</sup> When a left-turn lane (or lanes) is provided as shown, it must be used.<sup>315</sup> A left turn from the adjoining lane may be made if permitted by signs or arrows.

When making a left turn, you must give the right-of-way to all vehicles coming from the opposite direction on the same roadway that are close enough to

## 48 Driving Rules

be dangerous.<sup>316</sup> Make your left turn only when you can clearly see that it is safe. On divided highways, or highways with several lanes, look for vehicles coming in all lanes you must cross.

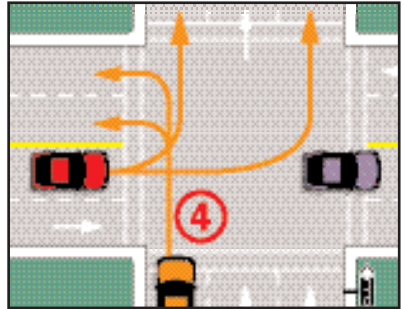
**② Right turn**—Complete the turn as close as possible to the right-hand curb. Do not swing wide into another lane of traffic.<sup>317</sup> Turn from the lane nearest the right-hand curb. You may start a right turn from a lane other than the far-right lane only where pavement or overhead markings show that using that lane for a right turn is permitted (shown by \*).<sup>318</sup>



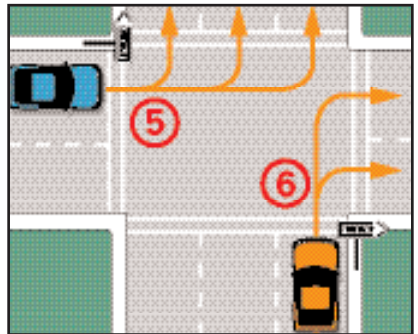
**③ Left turn** from a two-way street into a one-way street: The turn may be made into any lane that is safely open to you.<sup>319</sup>

**④ Left turn** from a one-way street into a two-way street: Start the turn from the far left-hand portion of the roadway.<sup>320</sup> The car may turn into either of

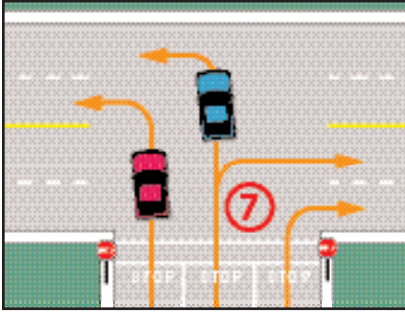
the lanes that are safely open, as shown by arrows.



**⑤ Left turn** from a one-way street into a one-way street: The turn must be started from the far left-hand portion of the roadway.<sup>321</sup> Watch for bicycles and skaters between your vehicle and the curb. In addition, yield to vehicles in or approaching the intersection.<sup>322</sup>



**⑥ Right turn** from a one-way street into a one-way street: After starting your turn in the far-right lane, you may use any lane open to traffic in the direction you are going, if it is safe to do so.<sup>323</sup>



**7 Turn at a “T” intersection** from a one-way into a two-way highway: Yield the right of way. Then you may turn either right or left from the center lane.<sup>324</sup> Watch for traffic inside your turn.

**Right turn against red light:**

Make a full stop for a red traffic light. If there is no sign that prohibits a right turn on the red light, you may turn right,<sup>325</sup> being careful that you do not interfere with pedestrians, bicyclists, or vehicles moving on their green light.

**Caution:** While waiting to complete a left turn, don’t turn your front wheels left until it is safe to begin your turn. If the vehicle following you hits the rear of your vehicle, this may keep you from being pushed into oncoming traffic.

**U-TURNS**

You may **not** make a U-turn (turn around and go back the way you came):

- Where you cannot clearly see traffic on the road 200 feet in

both directions (because of a curve, hill, fog, or any other reason).<sup>326</sup>

- Where a “NO U-TURN” sign is posted.<sup>327</sup>
- Where vehicles are so near that they may hit you.<sup>328</sup>
- On a one-way street.<sup>329</sup>
- In front of a fire station.<sup>330</sup> Never use a fire station driveway to turn around.
- Between intersections in a business district,<sup>331</sup> except at an intersection or through openings on a divided roadway. Churches, apartments, multiple-dwelling houses, clubs, and public buildings, other than schools, are considered to be business districts.



At a green light or green arrow, a U-turn is permitted unless a NO U-TURN sign is

posted.<sup>332</sup> Make the U-turn only from the far-left lane on your side of the road.<sup>333</sup>

You may make a U-turn in a residential district if no vehicle approaching you is closer than 200 feet and whenever a traffic sign or signal protects you from approaching vehicles.<sup>334</sup>

Before you make a U-turn on a divided highway, be sure you don’t drive over or across any roadway section, curb, or strip. This includes two sets of double painted lines marking a center

## 50 Driving Rules

divider—except through an opening provided for turns.<sup>335</sup> It also includes the unpaved median in the middle of a freeway.<sup>336</sup>

You may cross a double white or yellow line to make a U-turn, if the turn can be made safely and is otherwise allowed.<sup>337</sup>

When a two-way left-turn lane is provided, start your U-turn only from that lane.<sup>338</sup>

### DRIVING THROUGH A ROUNDABOUT

A roundabout is an alternative way of handling traffic where streets intersect. By deflecting vehicles so they enter the circulating roadway at low speed, a roundabout generally enhances safety and reduces the severity of collisions that do occur. By consistently following the yield-at-entry rule, a roundabout maintains orderly free flow, reduces confusion and delay, and optimizes vehicular capacity.

To drive a roundabout, a driver needs only to follow these simple rules:

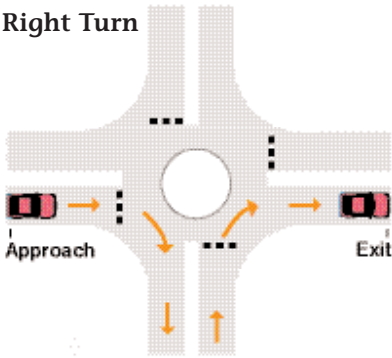
- Select your entry lane based on your intended destination; advance guide signs will generally be present to help you make this selection. If right-turning, stay to the right; if left-turning, stay to the left. If proceeding straight, it is generally okay to select either entry lane. Some roundabout approaches will flare out to

three or more entry lanes and the driver will need to exercise additional judgment.

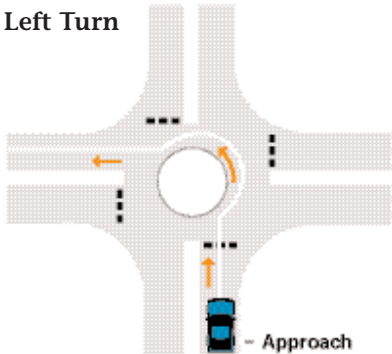
- Yield to any pedestrian or bicycle traffic crossing your entry roadway, and then yield to any traffic within the circulating roadway before entering yourself.
- Once in the circulating roadway, maintain your course. Although the circulating roadway usually will not have lane-striping within it, you should avoid meandering. Maintain awareness of other vehicles' positions and their intended movements. After you have passed the last exit point before yours, use your right directional signal, move safely as far right as possible, and exit. If you miss your exit, simply go around again and exit.
- Yield to any pedestrian or bicycle traffic crossing your exit roadway. Since you are driving a curve as you exit, this will require a high degree of alertness.

**General Tips:** Watch for bicycles traveling with the vehicular traffic (as opposed to at pedestrian-like crossings). Watch for trucks and buses and allow them the extra room they need; on the tight curves found at roundabouts, they may take up more than one lane. Drive defensively at all times.

**Right Turn**



**Left Turn**



**DRIVER'S AND BICYCLIST'S SIGNALS**

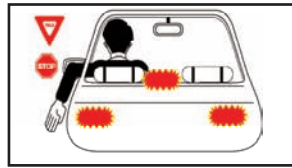
You must signal to other drivers when you plan to turn left or right,<sup>339</sup> slow down, or stop.<sup>340</sup> Signals may be given by hand-and-arm positions only if the signal lights are inoperable or the vehicle is not equipped with them.<sup>341</sup>

Signal your left or right turn during at least the last 100 feet before reaching the turning point.<sup>342</sup> At highway speeds, it is best to signal at least five seconds before you change lanes. Watch

for signals from other drivers.

If bright sunlight makes signal lights hard to see, use hand-and-arm signals also.

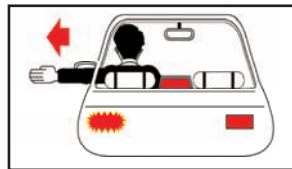
Bicycle riders may also give right turn signals with their right arm held straight out, pointing to the right.<sup>343</sup>



Slow or Stop



Right Turn



Left Turn

**Freeway Driving**

If you aren't sure of the way, study a map before you get on the freeway. Memorize not only the freeway exit you want to use, but also the one that comes before it. This will give you time to move over to the exit lane.



Be sure you are using the on-ramp when you enter the freeway. If you see a DO NOT ENTER or WRONG WAY sign, stop and back up. Vehicles will be coming toward you. Pavement reflectors will shine red in your headlights if you are going the wrong way.

Enter the freeway at or near the speed of traffic (remember that the maximum speed allowed is 65 mph unless posted for a higher speed). Do not stop before merging with freeway traffic unless absolutely necessary. Freeway traffic has the right-of-way. Stay with the traffic flow. If you must drive more slowly, move over to the right-hand lane.

Be prepared for rapid changes in road conditions and traffic flow. Watch for signals from other drivers and for merging vehicles at on-ramps and interchanges.

Be alert to vehicles on either side, to the front, and to the rear. Use your mirrors. Turn your head to look quickly to the side before changing lanes. Leave enough space between you and the vehicle ahead for safe stops.

Use your signals to let other drivers know your plans, and watch for their signals.

Practice courtesy toward drivers who are trying to merge or change lanes. If it is safe to do so, speed up or slow down slightly to give others a chance to maneuver safely. When you plan to exit the freeway, give yourself plenty of time, and signal your intention to exit.<sup>344</sup>

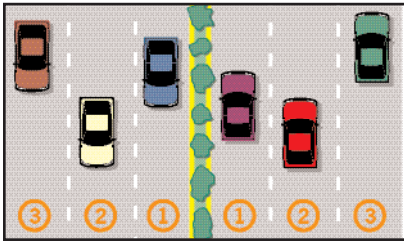
### **SPACE TO MERGE**

The two most frequent merging mistakes are slowing or stopping suddenly and merging at speeds too slow for freeway traffic.

Give yourself a gap of four seconds when merging. This will give both you and the car in front of you a two-second following distance. Don't cross multiple lanes at once, which can tie up traffic and even cause a crash. Instead, cross one lane at a time as traffic allows.

### **LANE NUMBERS**

Traffic lanes are often referred to by number in radio reports of crashes, roadwork, or other conditions affecting highways on your route. The lane nearest the center divider on freeways (excluding the carpool lane), and nearest the center line on other highways, is the number one lane. The lanes to the right of the number one lane are referred to as the number two lane, then the number three lane, etc.



Trucks and slow vehicles are restricted to certain highway lanes (see page 56).



Stops on freeways are forbidden except in emergencies.<sup>345</sup> A dis-

abled vehicle left on a freeway shoulder longer than four hours may be towed away by the CHP.

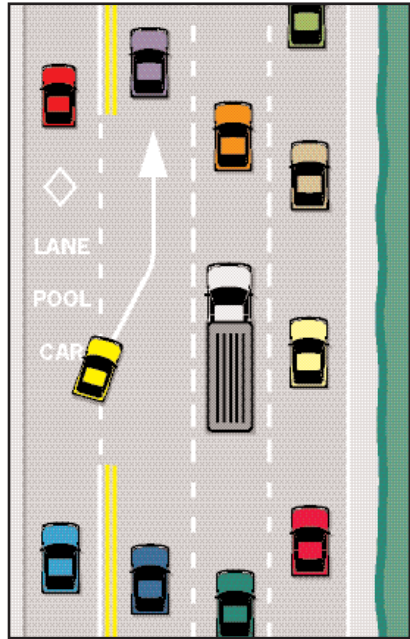
You must use a rigid tow-bar—not just a rope or chain—to tow a vehicle on a freeway<sup>346</sup> (except to move it to the nearest exit<sup>347</sup>). Tow trucks are required to use two chains.<sup>348</sup>

### CARPOOL LANES AND CONTROLLED ON-RAMPS

Carpooling and using public transportation help save gasoline and reduce congestion.

Some freeway on-ramps have designated lanes for carpools, which may require a minimum of two or three people in a vehicle (including the driver). Signs at the on-ramp or along the freeway tell you the size of the carpool (number of people) needed to use that lane and the days and hours

that the requirement applies.<sup>349</sup> Only carpools may use these on-ramps to enter the freeway during these hours.



Some freeways have a special lane for use by buses only<sup>350</sup> or buses and carpools only. The pavement of these lanes is also marked with a diamond symbol and the words CARPOOL LANE. Do not cross over the double parallel solid lines to enter or exit any carpool lane, even if you have the required number of people; use only entry or exit places designated by signs or a break in the double line.<sup>351</sup>

### Stopping Distance

To avoid objects in your path, you need to see them in time to be able to stop. Estimates for stopping distances vary. The DMV indicates, assuming you are alert and that you have **good tires, good brakes, and dry pavement** that,

- At 55 mph it takes 400 feet to react to something you see and to bring the car to a complete stop.
- At 35 mph it will take 210 feet to react and to bring the car to a complete stop.

According to the DMV, if you can't see at least 400 feet ahead, it means you can't drive safely at 55 mph. If you can't see at least 210 feet ahead, you can't drive safely at 35 mph. By the time you see an object in your path, it would be too late to stop without hitting it. Conditions are rarely ideal, so always allow yourself extra space.

### More Rules You Must Know

You must not drive a vehicle so loaded, either with property or persons, that you:

- Can't see ahead or to the sides.<sup>352</sup>
- Can't control it.<sup>353</sup>

You must not carry anything in or on a passenger vehicle that extends beyond the outer edge of the fenders on the left side or more than six inches beyond

the outer edge of the fenders on the right side.<sup>354</sup>

A load extending more than four feet from the back of the vehicle must display a red or fluorescent orange flag at least 12 inches square or two red lights at night.<sup>355</sup>

No one may ride on any part of your vehicle not intended for the use of passengers, such as the hood, fenders, or other outside parts.<sup>356</sup> Riding completely within the space intended for a load is permitted if the passenger:

- Uses a federally approved restraint system,<sup>357</sup> or
- Rides within an enclosed camper or camper shell equipped with seats and belts that will prevent the passenger from falling out.<sup>358</sup>

Animals may not be transported in the load space of a pickup or other truck unless properly secured.<sup>359</sup>

You must not tow anyone who is riding a bicycle, wagon, roller skates, sled, skis,<sup>360</sup> or toy vehicle.<sup>361</sup>

Sound your horn as a safety warning, and at no other time.<sup>362</sup>

Don't throw any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, or any flaming or glowing substance from your vehicle.<sup>363</sup> It is illegal to shoot firearms on a highway or at traffic signs.<sup>364</sup>

Don't litter the roadside with bot-



bles, cans, paper, or anything else.<sup>365</sup> The law says you may be fined up to \$1,000<sup>366</sup> and you may be forced to pick up what you threw away.<sup>367</sup> Littering convictions are shown in your driving record.<sup>368</sup>

Abandoning or dumping an unwanted animal on a highway is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or 6 months in a county jail, or both.<sup>369</sup>

A driver may not use a headset or earplugs in both ears.<sup>370</sup> (There are exceptions for law enforcement and special-

equipment drivers.)<sup>371</sup>

Leaving young children unattended in motor vehicles is dangerous. A parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for a child age 6 or younger may not leave that child inside a motor vehicle without supervision by a person age 12 or older if the absence of supervision presents a significant risk to the child's health or safety, or if the vehicle's engine is running or the keys are in the ignition, or both.<sup>372</sup>

# SPEED LAWS

## Basic Speed Law

California's Basic Speed Law says that you must never drive faster than is safe for the conditions present at that time.<sup>373</sup>

Regardless of what a sign may say, the speed limit may be affected by:

- The number and speed of other cars on the road.
- The surface of the road—whether smooth or rough or graveled, wet or dry, wide or narrow.
- How far ahead you can see.
- Bicyclists or pedestrians walking on the edge of the roadway.
- Weather conditions such as rain, fog, snow, ice, wind, or dust.

For example, even if you are driving 45 mph in a 55 mph speed zone during a dense fog, you could be cited by a police officer if you are driving too fast for the conditions.

## SPEED LIMITS

The maximum speed limit on most California highways is **65 mph**.<sup>374</sup> However, on two-lane undivided highways, the maximum speed limit is **55 mph**,<sup>375</sup> unless posted for a higher speed.<sup>376</sup> On some highways the maximum speed limit is **70 mph**,

but only if there are signs posted showing 70 mph.<sup>377</sup>

Other speed limit signs tell you the highest speed at which you can expect to drive safely in the places where the signs are set up.

Remember that you should not drive faster than the posted or maximum speed limit, even if you think it is safe to do so.<sup>378</sup> The only time you may exceed the posted speed limit (other than a maximum speed limit) is if you can demonstrate that your speed did not violate the Basic Speed Law at the time, place, and conditions then existing.<sup>379</sup>

On the highway, certain vehicles are restricted to a maximum speed of 55 mph and must drive in the right-hand lane or in a lane specifically marked for slower vehicles. If no lanes are marked and there are at least four lanes heading in the same direction, you may drive in either of the two lanes closest to the right-hand side.<sup>380</sup> These include:

- A truck or tractor-trailer with three or more axles or towing any other vehicle.
- Any passenger vehicle or bus towing another vehicle.
- A school bus transporting pupils.

- A farm labor vehicle transporting passengers.
- A vehicle transporting explosives.
- A trailer bus.

In business or residential districts, **25 mph** is the speed limit unless signs show other limits.<sup>381</sup>

When you see a “SCHOOL” sign, the speed limit, unless posted otherwise, is **25 mph** while children are outside or are crossing the street during school hours.<sup>382</sup> The **25 mph** school zone is applicable when approaching or passing within 500 feet of the school grounds.<sup>383</sup> The **25 mph** limit applies at all times when a school ground is unfenced and children are outside, even though the road is posted for a higher speed. The LOWER speed must be obeyed if posted. Look for bicycles and pedestrians near schools.

Under certain conditions, local officials can adopt a resolution or ordinance establishing a **15 mph** speed limit within 500 feet of school grounds. The **25 mph** limit will apply between 500 and 1,000 feet.<sup>384</sup>



**Be alert for school safety patrols or crossing guards. Their signals and directions must be obeyed.**<sup>385</sup>

When you come within 100 feet of a railroad crossing and you

cannot see the tracks for 400 feet in both directions, the speed limit is **15 mph**. This does not apply if crossing gates, a warning signal, or a flag person controls the crossing.<sup>386</sup>

The **15 mph** limit also applies at blind intersections where you cannot see 100 feet in either direction during the last 100 feet before crossing, unless yield or stop signs on the side streets give you the right-of-way.<sup>387</sup> The **15 mph** limit also applies in any alley.<sup>388</sup>

### **Lower limits may be posted**

Sometimes, for the safe and orderly movement of traffic, different limits may be posted for different lanes of traffic.<sup>389</sup>

### **When you drive too slowly**

You must not drive so slowly that you are a danger on the road or interfere with the normal or reasonable flow of traffic. You may be cited for driving too slow, as well as for driving too fast.<sup>390</sup> Sometimes, of course, you may have to go slow because it is the safe thing to do, or because of a steep hill.

If you are driving slower than the normal flow of traffic, you should drive in the right lane of the roadway, or as far to the right as is safe.<sup>391</sup> When you have to travel so slowly as to hold up traffic, you may temporarily use part of the highway just off the right side of the road, if it is in safe condition.



Slow-moving vehicles such as farm tractors, animal-drawn carts, and road maintenance vehicles may have an orange triangle on the back,<sup>392</sup> like this sign.

You must not block another driver who is attempting to pass you. Except where passing on the right is permitted, you must move out of the left (“fast” or number one) lane when another vehicle is close behind you and trying to pass. Even though you believe you are driving at the maximum safe legal speed for conditions, it is a good idea to let faster drivers pass you.

A passenger vehicle towing a trailer, a bus or truck towing another vehicle, and any three-axle truck must travel in the right-hand lane or in a lane marked for them by signs.<sup>393</sup> On

a highway with four or more lanes in one direction, where special lanes are not marked, such vehicles may also use the lane next to the right-hand lane.

### **SPEED CONTESTS**

Speed contests, in which motor vehicles are raced against each other or against a clock or other timing device, are strictly prohibited. Drivers, as well as those who aid and abet speed contests by erecting barricades or obstructing traffic, for example, can be imprisoned for up to 90 days in a state or county jail and/or face fines of up to \$1,000. They also may be sentenced to 40 hours of community service and have their non-work-related driving privileges suspended for 90 days to six months. Additional convictions within five years of the first conviction will result in increased fines and penalties.<sup>394</sup>

## PARKING

Never stop on the road, blocking traffic, unless necessary for safety or to obey a law enforcement officer.<sup>395</sup> To stop on a highway in an emergency or where parking is permitted, park with all four wheels well off the pavement, if possible.<sup>396</sup> On a highway without curbs, you must leave enough space for other vehicles to pass freely, and your parked vehicle should be visible 200 feet in each direction.<sup>397</sup> Legal parking position is with the front and rear wheels of the vehicle within 18 inches of the curb.<sup>398</sup> Your parked vehicle must face in the direction that normal traffic flows.<sup>399</sup>

When a roadway has no curb or other barrier, and signs are not posted with other instructions, you must park parallel to the road.<sup>400</sup>

Never park in the street parallel to another vehicle, just because all the parking places at the curb are taken.<sup>401</sup> “Double parking” is against the law, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with the directions of a law enforcement officer or official traffic control device.<sup>402</sup>

Never leave your car until you have stopped the engine and set the parking brake.<sup>403</sup>

Don’t open your door on the traffic side until it is safe to do so and doesn’t interfere with traffic.

Look for passing bicycles and motorcycles. Do not leave the door open any longer than is necessary to load or unload passengers.<sup>404</sup> Passengers should load and unload the vehicle on the curb side whenever possible.



This sign marks parking spaces and special facilities for disabled persons.<sup>405</sup> If you are able-bodied, it is against the law to park there.<sup>406</sup> Holders of disabled-person plates<sup>407</sup> or temporary placards may park for unlimited periods of time in parking spaces where a sign indicates a restricted length of time.<sup>408</sup> Restrictions other than the length of time, such as no parking allowed due to street cleaning, may apply.<sup>409</sup>

Abuse of the placard can result in cancellation or revocation of the placard, fines, and the loss of special parking privileges.<sup>410</sup> Never allow others to use your placard, unless you are being transported in the vehicle.

Disabled persons who qualify may obtain, at any DMV office, the special license plates and/or window placards that entitle them to special parking privileges. AAA members may conduct transactions at any Auto Club district office to obtain the disability license plate or window placard.

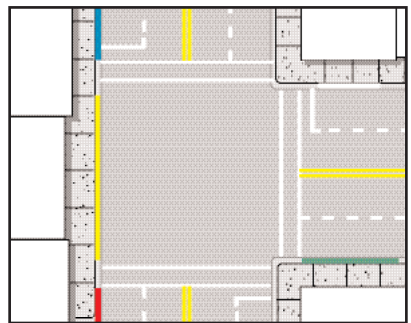
### Illegal Parking

Do not stop, park, or leave your car in any of the following places:

- Within an intersection.<sup>411</sup>
- On a crosswalk (marked or unmarked) or sidewalk.<sup>412</sup>
- Between a safety zone and a curb.<sup>413</sup>
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant<sup>414</sup> or the driveway entrance to any fire station.<sup>415</sup>
- In a marked fire lane.<sup>416</sup>
- On or within 7½ feet of a railroad track.<sup>417</sup>
- Closer than 3 feet from a sidewalk access ramp for the disabled.<sup>418</sup>
- In front of a public or private driveway (except with local permit).<sup>419</sup>
- On any freeway<sup>420</sup>—except in an emergency, or when an officer or device requires a stop, or where a stop is specifically permitted. A vehicle that is stopped, parked, or left standing on a freeway (even if disabled) for more than four hours may be removed.<sup>421</sup>
- Beside any red curb.<sup>422</sup>
- In a tunnel or on a bridge, except where permitted by signs.<sup>423</sup>
- Where signs or marking prohibit parking.<sup>424</sup>
- In a parking space for the disabled<sup>425</sup> (unless you are disabled and have a special plate or placard).
- In the space next to a parking space for the disabled if it is painted with white lines in a crosshatched pattern.<sup>426</sup> This space may not display the disabled sign.
- Beside or opposite any street or highway construction (excavation) work where stopping or parking would obstruct traffic.<sup>427</sup>
- In front of a curb that has been cut down, lowered, or constructed to provide wheelchair accessibility to the sidewalk.<sup>428</sup>
- In a stall or space reserved for a zero-emission vehicle.<sup>429</sup>

**Note:** Under certain conditions, authorized emergency vehicles are exempt from these prohibitions.<sup>430</sup> Buses or taxicabs, by local law, may be allowed some exceptions to the above.

### Painted Curb Markings



Painted curbs mean that parking is controlled. The colors on curbs mean:

**WHITE:** Very short stop allowed—only to take on or let off passen-

gers, or to put mail in a mailbox located there.<sup>431</sup>

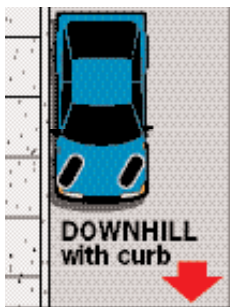
**GREEN:** Park for a limited time only. The time limit is usually shown on a sign next to the green zone or painted on the curb.<sup>432</sup>

**YELLOW:** Loading zone. You may stop only long enough to load or unload freight or passengers<sup>433</sup>—no longer than the local ordinance allows. Drivers of noncommercial vehicles are usually required to remain with their vehicles.

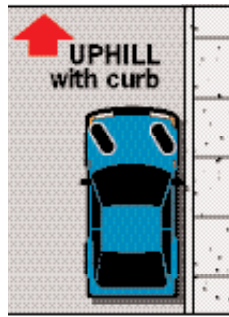
**RED:** No stopping, standing, or parking at any time. (But a bus may stop at a red zone marked or sign-posted as a bus-loading zone.)<sup>434</sup>

**BLUE:** Parking only for properly identified vehicles of disabled persons.<sup>435</sup> Usually posted (see page 59).

### Parking on a Hill



When you park headed downhill, turn your front wheels into the curb or toward the side of the road.<sup>436</sup>



When you park headed uphill, turn your front wheels away from the curb and let your vehicle roll back a few inches until the rear of one front wheel gently touches the curb. Then set the parking brake.



If there is no curb, turn the wheels toward the side of the road so the car will roll away from the center of the road if the brakes fail.

When you park on a sloping driveway, turn the wheels so that the car will not roll into the street if the brakes fail.

Always set your parking brake. Leave the vehicle in gear if it has a manual transmission. If your vehicle has an automatic transmission, set it to the “Park” position.

# PEDESTRIANS

A pedestrian is any person on foot (walking, jogging, or running) or using a conveyance propelled by human power (roller skates, skateboards, etc.) other than a bicycle.<sup>437</sup> This also includes persons who are disabled and use self-propelled wheelchairs, motorized tricycles,<sup>438</sup> or motorized quadricycles because (by reason of physical disability) they are not able to move about as a pedestrian.<sup>439</sup> These pedestrians must be given the same rights as any other pedestrian.

Two-wheeled “electric personal assistive mobility devices” (Segway scooters) are not considered motorized scooters and can be used on pedestrian walkways, unless prohibited or restricted by local jurisdictions. These scooters must travel under 12.5 mph, helmets are not required, and no age restrictions apply.<sup>440</sup>

Pedestrians have the right-of-way at intersections and where streets join at approximate right angles, whether or not the crosswalks are marked by painted white lines.<sup>441</sup> (Crosswalks are described on page 44.)

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF DRIVERS

- Stop for any pedestrian crossing at corners or other crosswalks (marked or

unmarked).<sup>442</sup> Do not pass a car that has stopped at a crosswalk<sup>443</sup>—a pedestrian you can’t see may be crossing.

- Stop for any person using a guide dog or service animal or a white cane with or without a red tip. Only blind or nearly blind persons are allowed to use these canes or guide dogs, and they must be given the right-of-way at all times, whether in or out of a crosswalk.<sup>444</sup>
- Stop for the safety of anyone crossing the street on foot.

Do not drive on a sidewalk, except to cross it at a driveway or alley.<sup>445</sup> When crossing, yield to any pedestrian.<sup>446</sup> Do not stop a vehicle so that it unnecessarily blocks a marked or unmarked crosswalk.<sup>447</sup>

**Remember:** Just because you make eye contact with a pedestrian doesn’t mean that the pedestrian will yield the right-of-way to you.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF PEDESTRIANS

At an intersection where traffic is not controlled by signals, drivers are required to yield the right of way to pedestrians within any crosswalk, marked or unmarked, but the pedestrian must give the driver a chance to yield.<sup>448</sup> A



pedestrian must not stop or delay traffic unnecessarily while crossing a street in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.<sup>449</sup>

When crossing or walking on a roadway at places that are not intersections or marked crosswalks, a pedestrian must yield the right-of-way to vehicles.<sup>450</sup> Jaywalking (crossing the roadway at any place except in a crosswalk) between intersections controlled by traffic signals or police officers is prohibited.<sup>451</sup>

Pedestrians must not suddenly leave a curb or other safe place and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is close enough to be a danger.<sup>452</sup> This is true even though they are in a crosswalk and the law says that any driver must take care for the safety of any pedestrian.<sup>453</sup>

When walking or jogging on a roadway where there is no sidewalk, pedestrians should move facing traffic—that is, close to your left-hand edge of the road.<sup>454</sup>

Pedestrians should not walk or jog on any freeway where signs tell you that pedestrians are not allowed.<sup>455</sup> You are not permitted on any toll bridge or highway crossing (any vehicle crossing) unless there is a sidewalk more than three feet wide, and signs tell you that pedestrians are permitted to use it.<sup>456</sup>



Pedestrians must always obey traffic signals.<sup>457</sup> Where

signals show the words WALK or DON'T WALK (or the upraised hand or walker signs) together with the usual traffic lights for vehicles, pedestrians must obey the rules.<sup>458</sup>

When a signal first changes to green, or WALK, pedestrians must look left and right and yield the right-of-way to any vehicle that was in the intersection before the signal changed.

If the signal starts to flash DON'T WALK (or upraised hand) after pedestrians have gone partway across the street, they must quickly finish crossing. They must never begin to cross a street if the signal is flashing DON'T WALK. If the signal stops flashing, pedestrians must go to a safety zone or pedestrian island and wait there until the signal says it is okay to continue.

It is important to note that one out of every five fatal traffic crash victims in California is a pedestrian. Here are six safety tips to remember:

1. OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNALS.

Always use the push button to start the WALK signal at an intersection. It allows sufficient time for pedestrians to cross the street before the traffic flow begins again.

## 64 Pedestrians

### 2. LOOK IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

Before stepping off the curb, look left, right, then left again and over your shoulder for cars that may turn into your path. Keep a sharp eye out for any approaching vehicle and make sure the driver sees you.

### 3. KEEP MOVING.

Walk as quickly as possible across the street. If the flashing DON'T WALK or yellow caution light appears, continue walking as rapidly as possible to the other side. Never stop in the middle of the crosswalk.

### 4. CROSS WITH A GROUP.

Whenever possible, cross the street with several other pedestrians. Crossing with a

group is always safer. A large number of people walking together is more visible to motorists than a single pedestrian.

### 5. DON'T TRUST CROSSWALKS.

Remember that painted crosswalks cannot stop a moving vehicle. Be alert when crossing and pay attention to the traffic. Listen and look for cars as you approach each traffic lane.

### 6. BE SEEN AT NIGHT.

If you must go out at night or in bad weather, wear or carry something white. Better yet, wear something retro-reflective or use a flashlight so drivers can see you easily.

# HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

## Night Driving

Don't try to drive the same speed at night that you do by day. You see less at night, and so do other drivers. Be sure that you can stop within the distance you can see clearly in your headlights. Be extra alert for bicycles, motorcycles, and pedestrians. They are much harder to see at night.

You must turn your headlights on when you drive from 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise, and any other time when you can see less than 1,000 feet.<sup>459</sup> Headlights must be on whenever windshield wipers are in continuous use.<sup>460</sup> It is best to turn on your headlights at sunset and whenever it is raining or foggy. A good rule of thumb is to use your headlights whenever you are having trouble seeing other vehicles. It is illegal to drive with only your parking lights on, day or night.<sup>461</sup>

Do not blind other drivers with your headlights. Use your high beams only in open country or dark streets when other cars are not nearby. Dim your lights by switching to low beams before you are 500 feet from a vehicle coming toward you.<sup>462</sup> If you are following another vehicle, switch to low beams when you get closer than 300 feet.<sup>463</sup>

Drive as far to the right as possible if a vehicle with one light comes toward you. It could be a bicycle or motorcycle, but it could also be a car with a broken headlight.

When leaving a brightly lit place, drive slowly until your eyes adjust to the darkness.

Turn your rear-view mirror to the night position. Avoid looking directly into the glare of oncoming headlights. Watch the right edge of your lane, noting the position of the oncoming vehicle out of the corner of your eye. Do not wear sunglasses when you drive at night. Consult your eye doctor before wearing tinted lenses for night driving.

## Weather Conditions

Slow down at the first sign of rain or drizzle on the roadway. This is when many road pavements are most slippery because oil and dust have not been washed away. In freezing weather, roadways in shady areas are likely to be slippery after rain or snow. If the road is slippery, your tires will not have the grip they need. You must drive slower than you would on a dry road.

Adjust your driving to the weather. Rain and fog demand that you slow down. It is wise to turn on your low-beam head-

lights when visibility is poor—even in daytime.

California law requires drivers to turn on their headlights whenever the windshield wipers are used continuously.<sup>464</sup>

If you drive in rain or snow, you may have to stop from time to time to wipe slush or snow off your windshield, headlights, and tail lights. It is important that you are able to see and be seen.

If at all possible, try to avoid driving in thick fog. If you must drive, sharply reduce your normal driving speed. Turn on your headlights. You will probably be able to see farther if you use your low beams; high beams may reflect back and cause glare. Never drive with just parking or fog lights.<sup>465</sup> Increase your following distance. Be prepared for emergency stops. If the fog becomes so thick that you can barely see, pull completely off the roadway, turn off your lights, and stop until the visibility improves.

### **AVOIDING SKIDS**

- Increase your following distance to eight to 10 seconds.
- Slow down as you approach curves and intersections.
- Avoid fast turns.
- Avoid sudden stops. If you do NOT have antilock brakes, “pump” the brakes to slow or stop. (Antilock brakes should not be pumped, as this will

provide false information to the onboard computer and prevent the brakes from working properly.)

- Shift to low gear to go down a steep hill.
- Avoid especially slippery areas, such as ice patches, wet leaves, oil, or deep puddles.

To dry wet brakes, lightly and simultaneously press the gas and brake pedals, which will drive the car against the pressure of the brakes. Do this only until the brakes begin working.

### **CONTROLLING SKIDS**

A skid occurs when you lose traction and your wheels spin or lock. Although there are no absolute rules for handling a skid, certain techniques can help to control skidding.

- Keep your foot off the brake. When your vehicle begins to skid, stay off the brakes. Braking may lock the wheels and eliminate all directional control. If the front wheels lock, the vehicle will continue to skid in a straight line and prevent you from avoiding objects in your path. If the rear wheels lock, the wheels will begin to slide sideways, which increases the probability that the vehicle will spin 180 degrees.
- Counter-steering: Counter-steering means steering in the direction you want the front of

the vehicle to go. Most drivers tend to steer this way instinctively in their attempt to correct a skid. When you counter-steer, straighten the wheels as soon as you feel the rear of the vehicle begin to realign. Be careful when you counter-steer—it is not enough to correct for only the first skid. The vehicle may swing into a skid opposite the first. Be ready to counter-steer quickly if second and subsequent skids occur. You need quick and correct reactions for successful skid control.

- Gradually ease up on the accelerator: To change your line of travel, ease up on the accelerator and counter-steer. To retain control, your vehicle requires traction between the tires and the road. Even a light touch on the accelerator or brake while you are driving on ice can throw your vehicle into a skid.

### **Acceleration Skid**

This type of skid occurs when your tires lose traction on the road surface. It usually involves the drive wheels. Ease off the gas pedal and straighten the front wheels as the vehicle begins to straighten out. Do not apply the brakes.

### **Locked Wheel Skid**

A locked wheel skid occurs when you apply the brakes so hard that one or more wheels lock. If

brakes are adjusted properly, all wheels generally will lock at the same time on dry pavement. This is not always true when traction is low. Regardless of which wheels lock, steering control will be lost. You may go into a braking skid if you must slow down suddenly in an emergency or brake on roads that are wet or covered with sand, gravel, wet leaves, ice, or snow. To regain control of the vehicle, release the brakes just enough to allow the wheels to turn. When the wheels begin to roll, you will regain steering control. If it is necessary to continue braking, continue using steady, firm pressure.

### **Steering Wheel Locking Device**

Never turn your vehicle's ignition to the "lock" position while it is still in motion. This will cause the steering to lock if you try to turn it and control will be lost.

## **Maintenance and Construction Work Areas**

It's up to you to ensure both your own and the workers' safety when driving through work areas. The highway worker's life is in your hands. Be careful to avoid workers and equipment.

Workers who must be on highways alert drivers to their presence, often with orange signs and flags indicating danger ahead. Orange road equipment travels slowly or is parked along the highway where roadwork is going on. Orange cones guide traffic around a closed

lane being repaired. Orange shirts are worn by the men and women who build, maintain, or landscape the roads. When you see an orange sign, be alert, slow down, and prepare for changed road conditions.

**Traffic fines are doubled in construction or maintenance areas.**<sup>466</sup>

**CLOSED LANES**



One or more lanes may be closed where highway construction or maintenance work

is going on. Orange signs will warn you that you are entering the work zone and will tell you which lanes are closed. A line of orange cones will show you the closed lane. Do not cross the line of cones. Many times you will see a flashing arrow sign ahead directing you to merge left or right. Always be alert and make your lane change early and safely.

Don't slow down or stop to look at construction or maintenance work. Move on cautiously as directed by the signs, barriers, cones, or flag persons.

**Mountain Driving**

On narrow mountain roads, drive as far to the right as possible and turn on your headlights. Sound your horn on curves where you cannot see at least 200 feet ahead

unless you are driving completely to the right of the center of the roadway.

When you meet another vehicle on a narrow road where neither can pass, the vehicle facing downhill must back up until the vehicle going uphill can safely pass.<sup>467</sup>



If you are driving a slow-moving vehicle on a two-lane highway or road where passing is unsafe, and five or more vehicles are following you, pull to the side of the road in a turnout area or wherever you can safely do so to let

the other vehicles pass.<sup>468</sup>

**TURNOUT AHEAD**

On some two-lane roads, specially marked turnout areas have been constructed. Signs are placed one-quarter mile ahead and at the turnouts themselves. At other places passing lanes are available. Never coast downhill with the transmission in neutral.<sup>469</sup>

On curves, there is tremendous outward pull on your vehicle. Watch out for it, especially where grip on the roadway may be reduced, as on rain, mud, snow or loose gravel. Slow down before you enter the curve. Braking on a curve may cause you to skid. Brakes can quickly get hot and lose stopping power when your car is traveling down steep grades. It is

best to go downhill in a low gear and use brakes sparingly. If brakes start to fade, stop immediately and let them cool.

Signs may prohibit any motor vehicle from using horseback or hiking trails or bicycle paths.<sup>470</sup>

### **Two-Lane Rural Roads**

It is a good idea to drive with your headlights on, even on sunny days. This will make your vehicle more visible to oncoming drivers and may prevent a head-on crash. Don't forget to turn them off when you park.

### **Long Drives**

On long drives, keep awake and alert. Do not drive if you are tired or sleepy. Get plenty of rest before a long trip. Have a cup of coffee. Avoid drinking alcohol or taking over-the-counter or prescription drugs before driving. The solutions to drowsy driving are sleep, exercise, and caffeine. If you do get sleepy, park off the road and take a nap. Even 20 minutes will help. When you wake up, get some exercise—run, walk, or wave your arms. Consume some caffeine for an extra boost.

### **Drivers' View**

Do not place or hang any object or sticker in or on a vehicle that reduces the driver's clear view through the windshield or side

windows.<sup>471</sup> Stickers, decals, and other similar items are only permitted in four places:<sup>472</sup>

- On the **windshield** in a 7-inch square in the lower corner farthest from the driver.
- On the **windshield** in a 5-inch square in the lower corner nearest the driver.
- On the **rear window** in a 7-inch square in the lower corner farthest from the driver.
- On **side windows** behind the driver.

Dirty headlights, mirrors, and windshields limit visibility. Road grime—dirt, oil, dew, ice, and other debris—can reduce light by up to 90 percent. A 30 percent to 50 percent visibility loss due to dirt or dust is common. To help control this problem, wipe your headlights when you are going to drive at night, and keep exterior mirrors and the inside and outside of your windshield clean.

Tinted safety glass is allowed in a vehicle if the glass meets U.S. Department of Transportation standards.<sup>473</sup> Window tinting is only permitted on side windows to the rear of the driver and on rear windows provided the vehicle is equipped with both left- and right-side rear-view mirrors and the tinting does not cover the rear-window supplemental brake light.

## 70 Hazardous Conditions

Motorists with sun-sensitive skin can now use removable sun-screens on their vehicle windows during daylight travel if they have a doctor's letter or other document signed by a licensed

optometrist certifying that they must be shaded from the sun due to a visual condition.<sup>474</sup>

Don't wear eyeglasses with temples so wide that they keep you from seeing clearly to the sides.<sup>475</sup>

**Get quality insurance at competitive rates with auto insurance through the Auto Club's affiliated Interinsurance Exchange. For a free quote, call or visit your local Auto Club office. Insurance provided to qualified Auto Club members by the Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club, or by independent insurance carriers. CA Dept. Insurance Lic. #0003259**



# HIGHWAY EMERGENCIES

## Crashes

If you see vehicle-warning hazard lights ahead, slow down. There may be a crash or other road emergency ahead. Turn on your emergency flashers.<sup>476</sup> Stop and give assistance, or pass very carefully.

Avoid driving near crashes. If you must drive near a crash, you may need to slow down, but don't slow down or stop just to look—you may cause another crash. Drive by carefully, watching for people on the road. Never drive over an unprotected fire hose.<sup>477</sup>

You must obey any traffic direction, order or signal by a traffic or police officer<sup>478</sup> or firefighter.<sup>479</sup> In emergency or special situations, obey such an order even if it conflicts with existing signs, signals, or laws.

You may be arrested if you drive for sightseeing purposes to the scene of a fire, crash, or other disaster and by doing so interfere with the essential services of police, firefighters, ambulance crews, or other rescue or emergency personnel.<sup>480</sup>

**If you are involved in a crash, you must:**

1. **Stop.** Failure to stop at the scene of a crash where your vehicle caused property damage,<sup>481</sup> injury, or

death<sup>482</sup> makes you a hit-and-run driver, subject to severe penalties.<sup>483</sup>

2. **Identify yourself.** Show your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of financial responsibility to the other driver(s) or persons involved or to any peace officer. You should exchange the following information with any other driver or property owner involved:<sup>484</sup>
  - Driver's name.
  - Current home address.
  - Driver's license number.
  - Vehicle identification number (VIN).
  - Name and address of insurance company and policy number.
3. **Notify Authorities.** If anyone is hurt or killed, notify local law authorities or a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer. If no officer takes a report at the scene, you must make a full written report on the crash to the CHP within 24 hours.<sup>485</sup>
4. If you hit a parked vehicle or damage other property, you must try to find the owner and identify yourself before you leave the scene. If you can't find the owner, leave a

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note with your name and address (and the name and address of the owner of the vehicle you are driving if it is not your vehicle) on or securely attached to the vehicle or property you hit. Notify your local police or the CHP promptly.<sup>486</sup>

5. If your parked vehicle becomes a runaway vehicle and hits another vehicle, notify the owner and report to authorities as described above.<sup>487</sup>
6. If your vehicle kills or injures an animal, stop and try to find the owner. If this is not possible, notify the nearest humane society, local police department, or the CHP. Do not try to aid or move an injured animal.

### REPORTING THE CRASH TO THE DMV

When you have a crash, you must report it to the DMV if:<sup>488</sup>

- More than \$750 in damage was done to the property of any person.
- Anyone is injured or killed.

**It is your responsibility to report the crash within 10 days.** The CHP or police will not make this report for you. You must make this report whether you caused the crash or not, even if the crash occurred on private property. You can get the report

form (DMV Report form SR 1) at any DMV or CHP office or from your insurer. When you have completed the form, mail it to:

**Department of Motor Vehicles  
Financial Responsibility  
P.O. Box 942884  
Mail Station J-237  
Sacramento, CA 94284-0884**

Often, your insurance company will file this form for you. If you don't make this report, your driving privilege will be suspended.<sup>489</sup> Using the information in the report, the DMV may ask your insurance company to verify that you had coverage for the crash; if you did not have proper insurance coverage, your driving privilege will be suspended for one year with an insurance proof requirement for an additional three years.<sup>490</sup>

Every crash reported to the DMV by law enforcement officials will show on your driving record<sup>491</sup> unless the reporting officer says another person was at fault, or the district attorney determines that you were the victim of insurance fraud.<sup>492</sup>

Every crash reported by you or another party in the crash will show on your record if any one person incurs more than \$750 in property damage, is injured, or dies. The DMV is required to maintain the record.<sup>493</sup>

### **FAULT**

The DMV does not decide fault for crashes. The crash report is required even if you were not at fault. Disputes about who was at fault may need to be resolved in court. If the judge orders an

uninsured motorist to pay damages and the judgment is not satisfied, the DMV will suspend his or her driving privileges.<sup>494</sup> You should ask the court to forward unsatisfied judgment documents to the DMV.

# DRIVER AND PASSENGER SAFETY

## Rules to Stay Alive By

The Auto Club provides the following tips for safer, happier driving:

### BE PREPARED

Think about your trip before you get into the driver's seat. Don't guess what the other driver will do. Plan what to do if someone ahead makes a mistake.

### DON'T DRIVE WHEN UPSET

Anger, worry, and daydreams are a driver's enemies. Don't hurry. Allow enough time for unexpected delays. Be late rather than sorry.

### KEEP YOUR VEHICLE SAFE

Be sure your vehicle's brakes, front and rear lights, windshield glass and wipers, tires, turn signals, exhaust system, steering, horn, and radiator are in good working order.

### KEEP UP WITH YOURSELF

How is your eyesight? Your hearing? Your coordination? What medication have you taken? Are you nervous or tense? Is your neck too stiff to look around?

### PRACTICE COURTESY

Signal. Dim headlights. Yield to others. Keep to the right. Take your time. Give pedestrians and bicycle riders a break.

### MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS

Minimize all distractions while driving and focus on the driving environment. A driver's primary responsibility is to pay attention to the driving task and avoid activities that could lead to crashes. Distractions include adjusting the audio system, having intense conversations, attending to pets, applying makeup, disciplining children, eating, and using cellular phones.

Refrain from using a cellular phone to place or receive calls or engage in conversations while the car is in motion, except in emergencies. Before using a cellular phone, pull over at a safe place, or have a passenger make the call. Do not answer calls while driving. If your phone has a voice mail feature, activate it and return calls later when you are no longer driving.

Cell phone use while driving is prohibited, *except* for drivers 18 and older using a hands-free listening and speaking system. Violators will be fined \$75 for the first offense and \$175 for subsequent offenses.<sup>495</sup>

If you are under 18, you may not drive while using a handheld or hands-free cell phone or any other mobile service device, including laptop computers, and personal

communication and two-way messaging devices.<sup>496</sup>

Commencing January 1, 2009, all drivers will be prohibited from text-messaging or e-mailing while driving. Fines are the same as violating the hand-held prohibition.<sup>497</sup> Also commencing January 1, 2009, portable GPS devices can be mounted in a 7-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield farthest removed from the driver (passenger side) or in the 5-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield nearest the driver, if only operated for navigational purposes while the motor vehicle is being operated and mounted outside of an airbag deployment zone. This means that GPS devices may not be attached to the windshield anywhere else that blocks the windshield.<sup>498</sup>

### **BE ALERT FOR CYCLES**

Remember that many small and hard-to-see motorcycles, motor scooters and bicycles are sharing the road with you. They are entitled to an equal share of the roadway. The space ahead that looks empty, the lane next to you—is there a motorcycle or bicycle in it?

### **WEAR YOUR GLASSES**

If the need for corrective lenses is noted on your driver's license, you must wear them while driving. Failing to do so may result in a fine. Also, for the safety of yourself and other road users, make regular appointments with

an eye doctor and follow his or her advice. If he or she tells you to wear corrective lenses while driving, do so.

### **DRIVE DEFENSIVELY**

Defensive driving is paying attention to your environment while behind the wheel to defend yourself against possible crashes caused by bad or drunk drivers, adverse weather conditions, heavy traffic, and the unpredictable actions of children, animals, and pedestrians. Drivers are required to be aware of and respond appropriately to many things in a constantly changing environment. They must pay attention to the location and movement of vehicles around them, as well as the actions of other road users. Look ahead and keep your eyes moving (scanning); you will spot a hazard more easily. Recognizing a dangerous situation in advance allows time to plan—and execute—evasive maneuvers.

Don't assume that bicyclists, children playing in the streets or drivers and passengers sitting in parked cars are aware of your presence. If you drive defensively, you can avoid most crashes.

### **KNOW THE COMMON CAUSES OF CRASHES**

- Unsafe speed.
- Violation of the right-of-way rules.
- Improper turns.

- Violation of stop signals and signs.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Driving on the wrong side of the road.

### Seat Belts, Air Bags and Car Seats

California law requires the use of seat belts<sup>499</sup> if your vehicle is a(n):

- 1968 or later model car.<sup>500</sup>
- 1972 or later model truck and weighs less than 6,000 lbs.
- House car.<sup>501</sup>
- Enclosed three-wheel vehicle (not less than 7x4 feet) with an unladen weight of 900 pounds or more.<sup>502</sup>
- Motor truck or truck tractor (excludes passengers in sleeper berth).<sup>503</sup>
- Certain farm labor vehicles.<sup>504</sup>

The seat belts must be in good working condition.<sup>505</sup> Be sure everyone in the vehicle wears one while the vehicle is moving.<sup>506</sup> If not, you or your passengers age 16 or older may be given a traffic ticket for not wearing a seat belt.<sup>507</sup> There are exceptions for drivers or passengers with a physical or medical condition that would prevent proper use of a seat belt. A licensed physician, surgeon or chiropractor must certify these conditions.<sup>508</sup>

In case of a crash or sudden stop,

seat belts keep passengers from being thrown into the windshield or dashboard or out of the vehicle. Kept in place behind the wheel, a driver has a better chance of maintaining or regaining control of the vehicle.

No matter how carefully they drive, most drivers will be involved in at least one traffic crash during their lifetime. The chances of being injured or killed are greater than you might think. Since there is no way a driver or passenger can completely eliminate the possibility of being involved in a crash, the best thing is to increase your chances of surviving by always using seat belts.

Many studies of serious crashes show that drivers and passengers wearing seat belts are more likely to survive than those not restrained by seat belts. Seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat car occupants by 45 percent and reduce the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent. You increase your safety by using your seat belt all the time.

Airbags can save lives in car crashes, but drivers and passengers must sit far enough away from them to allow them to safely deploy. Adjust your seat so that the center of the steering wheel is at least 10 inches from your breastbone; this is the approximate space the airbag needs to inflate. If you cannot

maintain control of your vehicle from this distance, contact your vehicle dealer or manufacturer for alternative ways of moving away from the airbag.

### **Child Safety Seats**

Car crashes are among the leading preventable causes of death of children. They also cripple or disfigure thousands of youngsters for life.

Studies show that seven out of every 10 infants and half of children ages 1 to 4 who die in automobile crashes would have survived had they been correctly secured in a child safety seat.

The law says adults are responsible for children being restrained by seat belts or, if the child is under 6 years old or weighs less than 60 pounds, in approved safety seats while in passenger vehicles or light trucks. Police officers may now stop vehicles, on a primary basis, for suspected seat belt and safety seat violations when the violation involves a passenger under the age of 16.<sup>509</sup>

The fine for a first offense may be waived if you establish to the satisfaction of the court that you are economically disadvantaged. The court will refer you to a low-cost car seat purchase or loan program.<sup>510</sup> The law also prohibits an individual from selling or transferring a child passenger safety seat that was in

use during any collision.<sup>511</sup>

Infants and toddlers can get almost complete protection when placed in approved crash-tested child car seats, fastened according to directions. Older children can be raised on a crash-tested safety booster seat so that they properly fit a standard shoulder/lap belt.

Here are some additional safety tips to protect your child:

For children 12 years of age or younger, the back seat is generally the safest place in the car.

Babies up to 20 pounds and about age 1 should ride in a safety seat secured to the back seat, facing the rear of the car. Babies and young children should not be placed in the front passenger seat if the vehicle has a passenger-side air bag.

Children over 20 pounds and age 1 or older should ride buckled up in a safety seat in the back seat.

Make sure the seat belt is put through the correct slot in the child safety seat. Incorrectly fastened safety seats defeat their purpose and can result in injury.

### **Smoking**

It is illegal to smoke a cigarette, pipe or cigar in a motor vehicle when minors are present, regardless of whether the car is in motion.<sup>512</sup>

### Mobility and Gridlock

Driving and traffic congestion often go hand in hand in California. However, according to the California Office of Traffic Safety (OS), even small changes in driving habits can be beneficial.

Avoid the following behaviors that contribute to traffic congestion:

- Rubbernecking—slowing down to get a good look at accident scenes or other unusual activities along the roadside.
- Tailgating—following other cars too closely. This common poor driving habit leads to innumerable accidents, exacerbating traffic delays.
- Unnecessary lane changes— weaving in and out of freeway lanes with the mistaken assumption that it will improve arrival time at the destination. Instead, it leads to slowing of all traffic.
- Inattention—not paying attention to the roadway. This may result from talking on a cell phone, eating, grooming, or reading while driving.

In addition to avoiding the above behaviors, you can do your part to improve traffic flow by keeping your vehicle in good working order and not allowing your gas gauge to dip too low. Stalls on freeway lanes and other roadways can tie up traffic for hours.

### Animals on the Highway

Horse-drawn vehicles and riders of horses or other animals are entitled to share the road.<sup>513</sup> Scaring horses or stampeding livestock are traffic offenses.<sup>514</sup> Slow down or stop if necessary and when signaled to do so by riders or herders.<sup>515</sup> If you see a stray animal in your path, slow down or stop, if it is safe to do so.

### Look at the Whole Scene

Turn your head. Keep your eyes moving. Look both near and far. Look to the sides and behind. Check your rear-view mirrors often. Because mirrors have blind spots, turn your head before changing lanes. Watch for things about to happen (a ball rolling into the street; a car door opening; a swerving bicycle). Always know the position of vehicles near you. Look well beyond the vehicle in front of you. Emergencies are less likely to happen when your eyes give you as much advance warning as possible. Train yourself to observe signs and signals—don't just look at them.

Be particularly careful to look both ways in these areas where inattentive people may step into the road in front of you:

- Shopping centers and parking lots.
- Construction areas.
- Busy sidewalks.



- Playgrounds and school zones.
- Mountainous or forested regions where wildlife may be present.
- Residential areas (look out for children and pets).

### **Handling Breakdowns**

Help other drivers see you in the event of a breakdown. If you are experiencing car trouble and must pull over, park your car out of the way of traffic, if possible, and in a spot that is visible from behind. Stopping around a curve or just over a hill is tempting disaster. Turn on your emergency flashers (or a turn signal) to alert other

drivers. (Drivers who notice a crash or obstacle up ahead can also use emergency flashers to warn motorists behind them.) If it is safe to get out of your vehicle, lift the hood and place emergency flares or triangles 200 to 300 feet behind your vehicle to give drivers extra time to change lanes, if necessary. (Be very careful when using flares. They may cause fires, especially when used near flammable liquids.) Get back in your vehicle and stay there until help arrives. Even if you think you can fix the problem yourself, don't risk it.

# OTHER VEHICLES ON THE ROAD

## Bicycles

Safe bicycling involves more than wearing the proper safety equipment and keeping a bike in good mechanical order—cyclists must also learn the rules of the road.

Bicycle riders on public streets have the same rights and responsibilities as other drivers.<sup>516</sup> Drivers of motor vehicles must treat bicycle riders the same as drivers of other motor vehicles. Bicyclists are not out of place on the roadway—they are part of the traffic and share the road with other drivers. They must stop at stop signs and obey traffic lights and most other traffic laws and signs,<sup>517</sup> but special care must be used near them because any collision with them will probably result in their serious injury. This means that automobile drivers must leave safe passing room and must not turn so close to bicyclists that they are in danger of being hit.

Although bicyclists will normally ride near the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, they can legally move left to turn left, to pass another vehicle or bicycle, or to avoid debris or parked cars.<sup>518</sup> They may have to swerve to avoid a car door opening suddenly. Expect any of these moves by bicyclists in a main traffic lane. On one-way streets,

cyclists may ride a bicycle in the left-hand lane.<sup>519</sup>

When the lane is too narrow to pass a cyclist safely, wait until the next lane is clear and give the cycle all the rights of any other slow-moving vehicle.

A motorist parked at a curb must not open a door on the traffic side of a vehicle without looking for bicycles, motorcycles, or cars.

Bicycle lanes are pictured on page 43.

## TRAFFIC SIGNALS FOR BICYCLES<sup>520</sup>

A **green bicycle signal**<sup>521</sup> allows a cyclist to proceed straight through, turn left or right, or make a U-turn (unless prohibited by sign). The cyclist must yield the right-of-way to other traffic and pedestrians.

A **steady yellow bicycle signal**<sup>522</sup> warns cyclists to slow down because a red signal is about to appear.

A **steady red bicycle signal**<sup>523</sup> means cyclists should stop at the limit line or before entering the crosswalk or intersection. However, you may turn right (or left from a one-way street onto a one-way street) as long as you yield the right of way to pedestrians.

**Bicycles must:**

- Have a brake that can make at least one wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.<sup>524</sup>
- Have handlebars that are not so high that riders need to raise their hands higher than their shoulder to hold the steering grips.<sup>525</sup>
- Fit the rider; that is, it must not be so large that the rider cannot stop it, support it while stopped with at least one foot on the ground, and start it again safely.<sup>526</sup>
- When it is dark, have:<sup>527</sup>
  - A white light either on the rider or the bicycle, shining in front of the bike and visible from 300 feet in front and from the sides.
  - A red reflector on the rear visible from 500 feet when in front of a vehicle's high-beam headlights.
  - A white or yellow reflector on each pedal, shoe, or ankle visible for 200 feet from the front and rear.
  - White or yellow reflectors on each side near the front, and a white or red reflector on each side near the rear. If the bike has two reflectorized tires, it does not have to have side reflectors.

**Bicycle riders must:**

- Ride *with* traffic—only persons walking on the roadway face oncoming traffic.<sup>528</sup>

- Ride in a straight line except when necessary to make a turn, avoid hitting someone or something, or drive over water drains, railroad tracks, holes, or other hazards.<sup>529</sup>
- Make left and right turns in the same way that drivers do, using the same turn lanes.<sup>530</sup>
- Give a hand signal before turning left or right.<sup>531</sup> However, bicyclists may also signal a right turn by holding the right arm straight out, pointing right.<sup>532</sup>
- Ride as near the right curb or edge of the street as practicable.<sup>533</sup> On one-way streets with two or more lanes, cyclists should ride near either the left or right curb or the edge of the street.<sup>534</sup>
- Use bicycle lanes, where marked on streets, when riding slower than other vehicles.<sup>535</sup>

Leaving marked bicycle lanes is permitted, but only when it is safe and after giving a correct hand signal.<sup>536</sup> Cyclists may leave a bicycle lane:<sup>537</sup>

- To overtake or pass another bicycle, vehicle, pedestrian, or jogger.
- To prepare for a left turn at an intersection or driveway.
- To avoid debris or other dangerous conditions.

**Riders under 18 years of age are required to wear an approved bicycle helmet.**<sup>538</sup>

### **Bicycle riders must not:**

- Permit anyone to ride as a passenger except on a separate seat attached to the bike.<sup>539</sup> Passengers cannot ride on the handlebars. If the passenger is a child weighing 40 pounds or less, the seat must have a device to hold the child in place and protect him or her from the bike's moving parts.<sup>540</sup>
- Carry anything that prevents holding the handlebars with at least one hand.<sup>541</sup> No-hands riding is dangerous.
- Hitch rides by holding onto or attaching the bike to any other vehicle.<sup>542</sup>
- Ride on any vehicular crossing unless permitted by sign.<sup>543</sup>
- Ride on freeways that have signs stating bicycles are prohibited.<sup>544</sup>
- Ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Riding a bicycle while intoxicated is a misdemeanor.<sup>545</sup>
- Park a bicycle on its side, or so there is no room for persons walking on a sidewalk.<sup>546</sup>
- Park or place a bicycle so as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of any bicyclist on a bikeway, bicycle

path, or trail, unless necessary for its safe operation or otherwise in compliance with the law.<sup>547</sup>

- A rider may not use a headset or earplugs in both ears.<sup>548</sup> (There are exceptions for law enforcement officers.)

### **BICYCLIST SAFETY TIPS**

Follow these guidelines for safer bike riding:

- Because bikes are small, drivers of motor vehicles may not see them. Crashes can be avoided if bicycle riders let other drivers know what they plan to do and make sure they understand.
- Bright, visible clothing and a bike helmet are good protection. Riders under 18 years of age are required to wear a bicycle helmet.<sup>549</sup>
- When passing parked cars, cyclists should look through the windows and be on the lookout for drivers and passengers who may open a door in their path. When in doubt, move out far enough to avoid the door if it should open (after checking traffic behind you).
- Sometimes the best way to cross busy intersections is to get off the bicycle and walk it across using the crosswalks.
- All new bicycles must have serial numbers stamped in

their frames. This number should be recorded and kept in a safe place at home for use in reporting a stolen bicycle to the police.<sup>550</sup>

- Bicycles are not registered with DMV, but may be subject to registration (licensing) by local authorities.<sup>551</sup> This is helpful in getting a stolen bike returned to its owner.

### Trucks

Trucks with three or more axles and vehicles pulling a trailer are limited to the two right lanes, even to pass, irrespective of the number of lanes the highway may have.<sup>552</sup> The law also specifically requires vehicles moving slower than the flow of traffic to keep right.<sup>553</sup> Because of this, slow-moving vehicles may be in the same right lanes with commercial vehicles whose drivers are attempting to stay with traffic flow. Automobile drivers may move to the left of the two right lanes. Truck drivers may not. If you are moving slowly, it may promote highway safety to let the truck through. If you do, watch for faster cars to your left.

**TRUCKS  
MUST USE  
RIGHT  
LANE**

Trucks pulling trailers need extra room to make a turn. The longer the vehicle, the greater the space



needed to complete a turn. This is the reason why big-rig drivers must often swing out to the left as the first

step in making a right turn. When you follow a truck, look at its turn signals before you start to pass. If you think the truck is turning left, wait a second and check again. The driver may actually be turning right.

Cars are difficult to see in a truck's side mirrors. Tractor-trailer rigs have a large blind spot on both sides and in the rear. Automobile drivers should move out of these areas as soon as possible and should never move up alongside a truck signaling to turn in their direction.

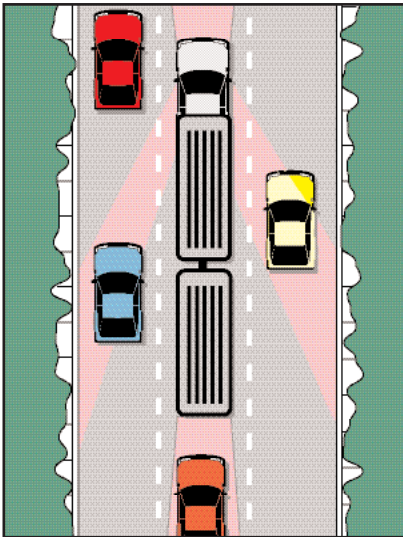
Always pass a large truck on the left, and after you have passed the truck, wait to move ahead of it until you are out of the trucker's blind spot. If you linger beside the truck, you make it difficult for the truck driver to take evasive action if any obstacle appears in the road ahead.

### KNOW THE "NO ZONES"

Motorists often think that because truck drivers sit up high, they can see more of the road. In fact, compared with passenger vehicles, trucks have more blind spots (commonly called "No Zones"). When you're near a big rig, stay alert and avoid the No Zones:

## 84 Other Vehicles on the Road

- **Side No Zones:** Never cruise alongside a truck. A rule of thumb: if you can't see the truck driver's face in the side mirror, he or she can't see you.
- **Rear No Zone:** Never tailgate a truck. Again, to gauge the proper distance, make sure you can see at least the truck's side mirrors.
- **Front No Zone:** When you pass a truck, remember that trucks need twice as much space to stop as cars do. To be safe, make sure you can see at least the windshield of the truck in your rearview mirror before you pull in front of it.



### Recreational Vehicles

No passenger vehicle, or any other motor vehicle under 4,000 pounds, may tow more than one other vehicle (exception: an aux-

iliary dolly or tow dolly may be used with the towed vehicle).<sup>554</sup> A towed vehicle must not swerve from side to side.<sup>555</sup>

A Class C driver's license limits you to towing only one other vehicle weighing less than 6,000 pounds, gross.<sup>556</sup> Exception: if your vehicle weighs at least 4,000 pounds, you may tow a trailer coach (or noncommercial livestock trailer) weighing not more than 9,000 pounds fully loaded.

A camper and its load must not exceed the gross vehicle weight rating of the pickup on which it is mounted; there is danger that it could tip over on an incline or sharp curve, or in a strong wind.

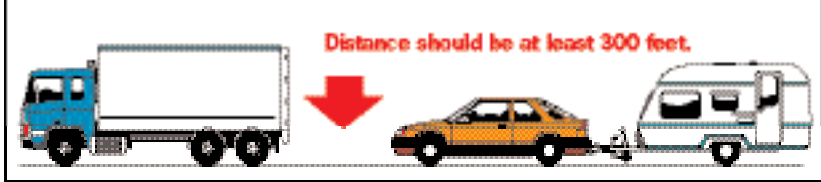
A camper with people in it must have an unblocked exit door that can always be opened from both the inside and outside.<sup>557</sup>

You may not tow a trailer coach while people are riding in it.<sup>558</sup> Riding in a fifth-wheel trailer coach is permitted if it is equipped with:<sup>559</sup>

- Safety glass.
- An exit door that can be opened both from the inside and outside.
- An audible or visual device with which the passengers can signal the driver.

Any recreational vehicle equipped with cooking or heating equipment is required by law to have at least one fire extinguisher, filled

**NOTE:** When you are towing a trailer or other vehicle and following another towed vehicle or a three-axle truck, stay at least 300 feet behind it. The rule does not apply when you are: in a business or residence district; on a highway with two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction; overtaking and passing the vehicle ahead.



and ready for use, of the dry chemical or carbon dioxide type with at least a 4-B rating.<sup>560</sup> A liquefied petroleum gas or natural gas tank located in a hard-to-see area of a vehicle must be identified by the letters “CNG,” “LNG,” or “LPG.” The letters must be in a contrasting color, one inch high or larger, and placed as near the tank as possible.<sup>561</sup>

### Trailer Equipment

If a trailer has electric or other power brakes, the braking system must be operated from the towing vehicle, and the two vehicles must be able to stop within 40 feet at 20 mph.<sup>562</sup>

A car towing a heavy trailer or carrying a heavy trunk load must have its headlight beams adjusted to compensate for the upward tilt.

Trailers large enough to need clearance lamps must have rear stop lights visible 500 feet away.<sup>563</sup> Their drivers must carry three emergency reflectors to be used if the trailer is disabled on

or next to the highway at night.<sup>564</sup> Whenever the stop lights and turn signals from the towing vehicle cannot be seen, the trailer must have turn signals.<sup>565</sup>

If a trailer or its load blocks your view to the rear, your towing vehicle must have a rear-view mirror on each side so you can see 200 feet behind you.<sup>566</sup>

It is safer to attach a towing hitch to the frame, rather than the bumper, of a towing vehicle. In addition to the trailer hitch, a strong safety chain must connect the two vehicles.<sup>567</sup>

When you are towing a trailer or other vehicle and following another towed vehicle or a three-axle truck, stay at least 300 feet behind it.<sup>568</sup> The rule does not apply when you are:<sup>569</sup>

- In a business or residence district.
- On a highway with two or more lanes of traffic moving in the same direction.

- overtaking and passing the vehicle ahead.

### Motorcycles

Motorcycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers. Though everyone must follow the same traffic laws, motorcyclists face unusual dangers because they are hard to see and the motorcycle requires exceptional handling ability. To increase their visibility, many riders operate with the headlight on during daylight hours.<sup>570</sup>

Motorcyclists must wear a federally approved safety helmet when riding a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or motorized bicycle on the highway;<sup>571</sup> it is illegal to operate or ride as a passenger without one.<sup>572</sup>

A motorcycle's handlebar grips may be no higher than six inches above the rider's shoulders when he or she is seated.<sup>573</sup> Here are a few tips to help drivers share the road safely with motorcyclists:

- Make a visual check for motorcycles when changing lanes, turning, or entering the roadway. Don't just rely on your mirrors. Motorcycles are small and can easily be hidden in your blind spots.
- Allow a four-second following distance behind motorcycles. Four seconds will allow you time to avoid hitting the motorcyclist if he or she falls.

- Motorcycles are entitled to the same full-lane width as all other vehicles. Although it is not illegal for motorcycles to share lanes, it may be unsafe.
- Road conditions that may be a minor annoyance to you can pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Potholes, gravel, wet or slippery road surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings and grooved pavement can cause motorcyclists to change speed or direction unexpectedly. You can help reduce motorcycle crashes, injuries and fatalities if you are aware of the effect of these conditions and drive with care and attention.

### Minibikes, Go-Carts, Motorized Bicycles, and Motor Scooters

Motorcycles and motorized bicycles<sup>574</sup> used on a public roadway must display current license plates. They must be built and equipped to meet legal requirements regarding lights, brakes, windshield, ground clearance and other standards.<sup>575</sup> You must be a licensed driver to ride them.<sup>576</sup> Motor scooters and midget racers such as minibikes or go-carts are not exempt from these requirements. If you operate a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or motorized bicycle, you and your passenger must wear helmets.<sup>577</sup> Most vehicles driven off the high-



way must display off-highway registration stickers.<sup>578</sup>

Parents are liable if they let an unlicensed minor drive any motor vehicle on a public street or sidewalk or in a public parking facility.

### **MOTORIZED BICYCLES**

A motorized bicycle (commonly called a moped) is a two- or three-wheeled vehicle that can be powered either by a rider using pedals or by an electric motor.<sup>579</sup> The pedals are connected by an automatic transmission to a motor that produces less than 2 gross brake horsepower and can move the bike at no more than 30 mph.<sup>580</sup> It is against the law to drive on the highway a motorized bicycle that has been modified so that it no longer conforms to this definition.<sup>581</sup>

Mopeds must display special license plates.<sup>582</sup>

You must have a valid California driver's license of any class to operate a motorized bicycle on the highway.<sup>583</sup> No special examination or special endorsement on the license is required. If you want a license only for motorized bicycles, you must complete all of the following:

- Driver education.
- Driver training.
- Class M2 written test.
- Motorized bicycle skill test and road test.

Moped riders are subject to the same traffic laws that all drivers must follow.<sup>584</sup> You must wear a helmet.<sup>585</sup> Violations are entered in your driver record.

You may not operate a motorized bicycle if you are younger than 15½ years old, even with an instruction permit.<sup>586</sup> If you are 15½ to 17½ years old, you may operate one only after you have successfully completed approved driver education and training and your instruction permit has been validated by the DMV for operation of a motorized bicycle.<sup>587</sup> After age 17½, driver education and training are not required, and the motorized bicycle privilege need not be validated by the DMV on the instruction permit.<sup>588</sup>

You may not drive a motorized bicycle on freeways,<sup>589</sup> equestrian trails, or hiking or recreation trails (unless the path or trail is on or next to a roadway, or permission to use the trail or roadway is granted by local ordinance).<sup>590</sup> You may drive a motorized bicycle in a bicycle lane on a roadway at a reasonable speed and with special care regarding visibility, traffic conditions, and the condition of the roadway surface of the bicycle lane. Drive in a manner that does not endanger the safety of any bicyclist.<sup>591</sup>

### MOTORIZED SCOOTERS

A motorized scooter is any two-wheeled device that has handlebars, is designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator, and is powered by an electric motor that is capable of propelling the vehicle with or without human propulsion.<sup>592</sup> The Segway scooter, although motorized, is classified as an “electric personal assistive mobility device” and is not subject to the regulations for motorized scooters.<sup>593</sup> (See Pedestrian section, page 62, for information on these devices).

It is important to remember that your insurance policy may not provide coverage for accidents involving the use of motorized scooters.<sup>594</sup> Every person operating a motorized scooter upon a highway has all the rights and is subject to all the provisions applicable to the driver of a vehicle,<sup>595</sup> including but not limited to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.<sup>596</sup> This does not include the requirements for financial responsibility, registration, and license plates.<sup>597</sup>

You must be at least 16 years old and have at least an instruction permit to operate a motorized scooter.<sup>598</sup> You cannot carry any passengers.<sup>599</sup>

You must not operate a motorized scooter at a speed faster than 15 mph.<sup>600</sup>

Modified or altered exhaust systems must meet legal require-

ments regarding emissions and noise restrictions.<sup>601</sup> When you operate a motorized scooter upon a highway at less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction, you must ride close to the right-hand curb or right edge of the roadway,<sup>602</sup> except:

- When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.<sup>603</sup>
- When preparing to make a left turn. You are required to stop, dismount, and complete the turn by crossing the roadway on foot.<sup>604</sup>
- When reasonably necessary to avoid hazardous conditions.<sup>605</sup>
- On a one-way street with two or more marked traffic lanes; you can ride near the left-hand curb or left edge of the roadway.<sup>606</sup>

You may operate a motorized scooter on a bicycle path, trail or bikeway unless otherwise prohibited.<sup>607</sup>

Motorized scooters must:<sup>608</sup>

- Have a brake that will make the braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.
- Have handlebars that are not so high that the operator must elevate his or her hands above his or her shoulders to grasp the steering grips. Every motorized scooter operated on

a highway during darkness must be equipped with the following:<sup>609</sup>

- A lamp emitting a white light from the front visible from a distance of 300 feet.
- A red reflector on the rear visible from a distance of 500 feet.
- A white or yellow reflector on each side visible from the front and rear of the motorized scooter from a distance of 200 feet.

You must operate a motorized scooter so that the electric motor is disengaged or ceases to function when the brakes are applied, or so that the motor is engaged through a switch or mechanism that, when released, will cause the electric motor to disengage or cease to function.<sup>610</sup>

When operating a motorized scooter, you *must not*:<sup>611</sup>

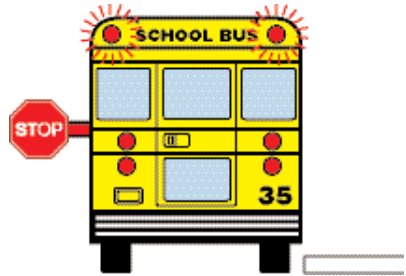
- Ride on a highway with a speed limit in excess of 25 mph, unless the motorized scooter is operated within a class II bicycle lane.
- Ride while carrying any package, bundle or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.
- Ride upon a sidewalk, except as necessary to enter or leave adjacent property.
- Park a motorized scooter on

its side on a sidewalk, or so there is no room for persons walking on a sidewalk.

- Hitch rides by holding onto or attaching the motorized scooter to any other vehicle on the roadway.

### School Buses

Flashing yellow lights on a stopped school bus warn drivers to prepare to stop. Children are getting ready to enter or exit the bus.



You must stop when you come to a school bus that is stopped on either side of the roadway with flashing red lights on at the top front and top rear of the bus. Children may be crossing the roadway to and from the school bus. Remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing.<sup>612</sup>

You need not stop if the school bus is on the other side of a divided or multilane highway (two or more lanes in each direction).<sup>613</sup> The law requires you to yield to a bus that is equipped with a yield sign and is attempting to re-enter traffic.<sup>614</sup>

You may be fined up to \$250 for a first violation and up to \$1,000 for a second violation. If you have a third violation within three years, your driving privilege may be suspended for a period of one year.<sup>615</sup>

### Emergency Vehicles

Take caution when you see or hear a police car, fire engine, ambulance, tow truck, or other emergency vehicle using a siren and red light. If not prohibited by law, move as far to the right as possible until the emergency vehicle or tow truck has safely passed. If you cannot change lanes, slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for the existing conditions.<sup>616</sup>

Don't stop in an intersection.<sup>617</sup> Cautiously continue through the intersection, then pull to the right as soon as you can.

Sometimes these emergency vehicles will use the wrong side of the street.

It is against the law to follow within 300 feet of any fire, police, sheriff or Highway Patrol vehicle, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle that is answering an emergency call.<sup>618</sup>

### Buses and Streetcars

Do not drive through a safety zone,<sup>619</sup> which is a space set aside for pedestrians that is marked by raised buttons or markers on a roadway.<sup>620</sup>

When people are boarding or leaving a streetcar where there is no safety zone, you must stop behind the nearest door or vehicle platform<sup>621</sup> and wait to proceed until the embarking and disembarking passengers have reached a safe place.

When a bus or streetcar is stopped at a safety zone or at an intersection where traffic is controlled by a police officer or traffic signal, you may pass when it is safe to do so, and at no more than 10 mph.<sup>622</sup>

Do not overtake and pass on the left of any interurban train or streetcar, whether it is moving or standing, except when:<sup>623</sup>

- You are on a one-way street.
- The tracks are so close to the right side that you cannot pass on the right.
- A traffic officer directs you to pass on the left.

Look for approaching streetcars before you turn across the tracks. If the crossing has a signal, complete your turn only when it indicates you may proceed.<sup>624</sup>

Trolleys are powered by overhead electric wires but do not operate on rails.<sup>625</sup> They have most of the same rights and responsibilities on public roadways as other vehicles.<sup>626</sup> Here are some specific steps you can take to safely share the road with trolleys:

- Be aware of where trolleys operate.

- Never turn in front of an approaching trolley.<sup>627</sup>
- Be aware that buildings, trees, etc., cause blind spots for the trolley operator.
- Maintain a safe distance from the trolley if it shares a street with vehicular traffic.<sup>628</sup>

Trolleys, trains and streetcars can preempt traffic signals, so do not proceed until the signal light indicates you may.

train close by. Don't proceed until you can clearly see in both directions. A second train may be approaching from either direction.



**Do not go around or under closed crossing gates.**<sup>632</sup>

### Railroad Crossings



Signs warn you that there are railroad tracks ahead. Look and listen for trains in both

directions, and be prepared to stop, if necessary. Never stop on a railroad track.<sup>629</sup> In heavy traffic, make sure you can drive over the tracks without stopping. Never start across if there isn't room for your vehicle on the other side of the tracks.

Watch for vehicles (buses, school buses, and trucks carrying hazardous loads) that must stop before crossing the tracks.<sup>630</sup>

Flashing red lights at a train crossing mean STOP. You should stop at least 15 feet from the tracks when:<sup>631</sup>

- A person or signal warns that a train is coming.
- You see a train coming.
- You hear the horn or bell of a

### Hazardous Loads



Diamond-shaped signs like these on trucks, which may or may not indicate the load on board, warn that the contents are dangerous. Some loads have code numbers. CHP and fire department officers know what to do if the load is accidentally spilled. Vehicles displaying these signs must stop before crossing railroad tracks.<sup>633</sup>

### Low-Speed Vehicles

A low-speed vehicle is generally subject to all the laws applicable to a motor vehicle and must meet federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards established for low-speed vehicles.<sup>634</sup> When you drive a low-speed vehicle, you are subject to all the provisions

applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle.<sup>635</sup> A dealer selling a low-speed vehicle shall provide to the buyer a disclosure statement regarding the operation of the vehicle in compliance with existing California regulations.<sup>636</sup>

You must not drive a low-speed vehicle on a roadway with a speed limit in excess of 35 mph<sup>637</sup> unless you are crossing a roadway and the crossing begins and ends on a roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less and occurs at an intersection that is approximately a right angle.<sup>638</sup> You may not cross an uncontrolled intersection with any state highway unless that intersection

has been approved and authorized by the agency having primary traffic enforcement responsibilities for that crossing by a low-speed vehicle.<sup>639</sup>

### **GOLF CARTS**

Local authorities may establish crossing zones for use by golf carts (or any low-speed vehicle)<sup>640</sup> at any time during daylight hours on any street other than a state highway that has a posted speed limit of 45 mph or less and is immediately adjacent to a golf course. The crossing zones shall be at an approximate right angle to the direction of the roadway.

# DRINKING, DRUGS, AND DRIVING

## Alcohol

Because of the strong relationship between drinking and driving and traffic crashes, California has passed some of the nation's strictest laws for driving under the influence (DUI). The DUI laws punish offenders for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, other drugs, or a combination of alcohol and other drugs. To avoid this, you should not drive after consuming alcoholic drinks.

Alcohol, even in small amounts, increases the chance of having a crash. Just two beers in one hour will impair most people's driving ability.

It is illegal to drive with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) that is .08% or greater.<sup>641</sup> Drivers under the age of 21 years can be cited if found to have a BAC of .01% or more.<sup>642</sup> This means that  $\frac{1}{100}$  of a percent of alcohol has been absorbed into your bloodstream from your stomach.

A BAC below .08% does not mean that it is safe or legal to drive. Almost all drivers show some effects even at much lower BAC levels. A person can be convicted of drunk driving in California even with a very low BAC if he or she demonstrates

clear signs of impairment. *There is no safe way to drive after drinking.* The charts on page 96 show that even a few drinks can make you an unsafe driver. They show that drinking affects your BAC. The BAC zones for various numbers of drinks and time periods are printed in white, gray, and black.

## HOW TO USE THESE CHARTS

If you consumed two drinks over the past hour and want to know whether it is legal to drive:

1. Find the chart that includes your weight. For example, if you weigh 160 pounds, use the "150 to 169" chart.
2. Look under "Total Drinks" at the "2" on this "150 to 169" chart.
3. Look below the "2" drinks, in the row for one hour. You'll see your BAC is in the gray-shaded zone. This means that if you drive after two drinks in one hour, you could be arrested.

In the gray zone, your chances of having a crash are five times higher than if you had no drinks. But, if you had three drinks in one hour, your BAC would be in the black-shaded area, and your

### ESTIMATED COSTS OF FIRST MISDEMEANOR DUI CONVICTION

(fees may vary)

Fines (minimum)	\$468
Penalties (minimum)*	\$780
Tow/Impound Fee	\$187
Alcohol Education Class	\$550
Auto Insurance Increase**	\$8650
Restitution Fund	\$100
DMV License Re-Issue Fee	\$125
Attorney & Legal Fees	\$2500
Booking, fingerprinting and photo fees	\$156
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,466</b>

\* Penalties vary by county from \$663 to \$858. The most typical cost is \$780.

\*\* Based on premium increases over 10 years for a single, 25-year-old motorist.

*The costs related to a first-time misdemeanor conviction for driving under the influence (DUI) can easily exceed \$12,000.*

Costs above do not include:

- Value of lost work time and wages.
- Medical costs.
- Vehicle property damage.
- Cost of ignition interlock device if required by a judge.

chances of having a crash are 25 times higher. What's more, it is **ILLEGAL** to drive at this BAC (.01% or greater) if you are under age 21. After three drinks in one hour, the chart shows you would need three more hours, with no more drinks, to reach the white BAC zone again.

**REMEMBER:** "One drink" is 10 ounces of 5 percent beer, or a 4-ounce glass of 12 percent wine, or a 1¼-ounce shot of 80-proof liquor (even if it's mixed with nonalcoholic drinks). If you have larger or stronger drinks, or drink on an empty stomach, or if you are tired, sick, upset, or have taken medicines or drugs, you can be legally impaired after imbibing fewer drinks. The good news is that current laws, enforcement, and education efforts have substantially reduced the number of alcohol-related fatalities and injuries.

### Drugs

Much of what has been said about alcohol also applies to drugs (both legally prescribed medicines and illegal drugs). The state's drunk driving law is also a drugged driving law since it refers to "driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs."<sup>643</sup>

The law does not have to specify which drugs are involved. And if taken with alcohol, many medicines can affect the way you drive. It is important that you check with your doctor before driving if you take any medication. A sleeping pill, tranquilizer, pain medicine, muscle relaxant, and even cold or allergy medication can impair your driving. More important, it can increase the impairing effects of alcohol on



your driving. A person who is addicted to the use of any drug, other than a person participating in an approved narcotic treatment program, is not permitted to drive.<sup>644</sup>

Under the law, a law enforcement officer can require the driver to take a blood or urine test if drug use is suspected.<sup>645</sup> Persons refusing these tests are subject to the same license suspensions as alcohol test refusals (see the Test for Drunk Driving on page 97).<sup>646</sup>

### **You Are Responsible**

You must always drive alert and with care. You must not drive after you have taken in any drink or drug that changes how you drive, makes you less careful, or slows down your reactions.<sup>647</sup>

### **PUNISHMENTS**

If you are convicted of driving with alcohol or drugs in your body, the judge can sentence you to jail time,<sup>648</sup> in addition to imposing expensive fines and penalties.<sup>649</sup> Your license will be suspended and you will have to complete a several-months-long approved drinking driver program.<sup>650</sup> Your car may be impounded<sup>651</sup> or an ignition interlock device may be placed on your vehicle.<sup>652</sup> A person with a restricted license requiring an interlock device who is caught driving a vehicle not equipped with a functioning certified interlock device may have his or her

vehicle impounded.<sup>653</sup> Vehicle insurance after a drunk driving conviction will be very expensive.

First-time DUI offenders who refuse a chemical test or register a BAC of .20% or greater, and who are on probation following conviction, face six to nine months in an alcohol treatment program and 60 program activity hours.<sup>654</sup>

Additional convictions within 10 years will result in increasingly severe fines and penalties.<sup>655</sup>

Starting January 1, 2009, if you are caught driving with a blood alcohol concentration of .01 or greater while on probation for DUI, your vehicle may be impounded and your driving privileges may be suspended.<sup>656</sup>

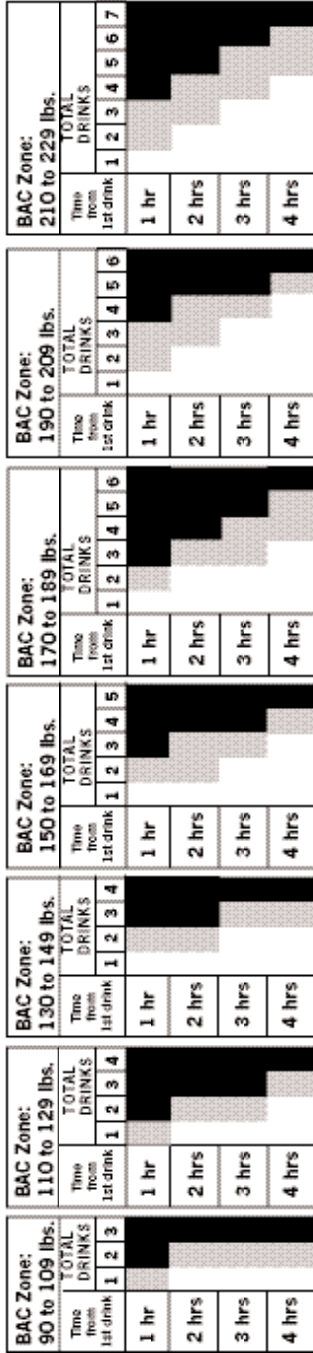
If any person gets hurt or killed because you drove drunk or drugged, it is an even more serious crime. You will be punished with even more severe fines, jail and license suspension or revocation than if no injury were involved. In cases involving death or serious bodily injury, you may be punished under California's "Three Strikes Law" or be tried for murder. You could also face a civil lawsuit that could result in financial disaster.

### **OPEN CONTAINER LAW**

California law is very strict on carrying alcohol or drugs in a vehicle, whether the vehicle is on or off the highway. You must not

**Technical Note:** These charts are intended as guidelines only. Although it is possible for anyone to exceed the designated limits, the charts have been constructed so that fewer than five persons in 100 will exceed these limits when drinking the stated amounts on an empty stomach. Actual values can vary by body type, gender, health status, age, and other factors.

[.04% or less] May be D.U.I. if under 21, definitely unlawful if .01% or greater.  
 [.05% - .07%] Abilities impaired, possibly D.U.I. Definitely unlawful if under 21.  
 [.08% & Up] Definitely D.U.I.



The Department of Motor Vehicles, the California Highway Patrol, and the Department of Justice created the chart as an illustrated guideline.

The Auto Club believes that awareness through education and information about the consequences of drinking and driving leads to life-saving choices for all motorists, their passengers, and families.

**Remember: You Drink. You Drive. You Lose.®**

drink any alcoholic drink in any vehicle you are driving<sup>657</sup> or in which you are a passenger.<sup>658</sup> You must not carry on you or in the car an opened bottle, can or container with an alcoholic drink in it.<sup>659</sup> Any container of liquor, beer, or wine carried in a vehicle must be full, sealed, and unopened;<sup>660</sup> otherwise, it must be put in the trunk or a place where passengers don't sit.<sup>661</sup> Keeping an opened container of an alcoholic drink in the glove compartment is against the law.<sup>662</sup>

If you are under age 21, you must not carry any alcoholic drink anywhere in a motor vehicle unless your parent, another adult designated by your parent, or your guardian is with you.<sup>663</sup> The only exception is when you are working for a person who has a state liquor license.<sup>664</sup>

The law does not apply to non-driving passengers in a bus, taxi, camper, or motorhome.<sup>665</sup>

**Remember:**  
**You Drink. You Drive. You Lose.®**

### **THE TEST FOR DRUNK DRIVING (“IMPLIED CONSENT” LAW)**

When you drive in California, you agree to take a test of your blood, breath, or urine if you are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both.<sup>666</sup> If you refuse or fail to complete the test, you will lose your license, whether or not you

were under the influence.<sup>667</sup> If you are arrested because a police officer suspected you might have alcohol or drugs in your body, you will be asked to take a test to see if it is true.<sup>668</sup> You may choose which kind of tests will be used: for alcohol, blood or breath; for drugs, blood, breath or urine.<sup>669</sup> If you are taken to a clinic or hospital for medical reasons and it does not offer all three tests, you must take one of the tests it offers. You may not talk to a lawyer or have one present before deciding on the test or during its administration.<sup>670</sup>

If you refuse or fail to complete a chemical test, the DMV will suspend your license for one year.<sup>671</sup> It will be revoked for two years for a person who has had one DUI conviction in the past 10 years, or for three years for someone who has had two or more of these convictions within 10 years.<sup>672</sup>

If a law enforcement officer suspects you of driving under the influence and you've had a DUI conviction within the last 10 years, and if you refuse to submit to a chemical test or if your blood-alcohol level is .10% or more, your vehicle may be impounded for five days (one conviction) or 15 days upon your arrest.<sup>673</sup>

### **ZERO TOLERANCE LAW**

The law is stricter if you are a driver under 21 years old and requires you to take a

Preliminary Alcohol Screening (PAS) test if a peace officer believes that you have been drinking.<sup>674</sup> This test is administered at the scene using a handheld PAS device.<sup>675</sup> If there is no PAS device available, you can choose between a blood or breath test.<sup>676</sup>

If your BAC is .01% or higher, or you refuse to take or fail to complete the PAS (or other chemical) test, the DMV will suspend your license for one year.<sup>677</sup>

If you are convicted of using alcohol or drugs and are from 13 through 20 years of age, the court will order the DMV to suspend your driving privilege for one year.<sup>678</sup> If you don't have a driver's license yet, the court will tell the DMV to make you wait a year longer before you can apply for a license.<sup>679</sup> You can also be required to enroll in a DUI program.<sup>680</sup>

**Review**—When your license is taken away, you can ask the DMV, within 10 days, to review your case.<sup>681</sup> The suspension or revocation is independent of any jail, fine, or other criminal penalty imposed by a court.<sup>682</sup>

### RESTRICTED LICENSE

The DMV can issue a restricted license (only for a first offense of .08% BAC or more) following a 30-day suspension of your license if:<sup>683</sup>

- A chemical test was taken,  
**and**

- You were 21 years of age or older when the offense occurred.

You may obtain a restricted license for driving to and from a state-licensed DUI program. You may obtain a five-month restricted license to drive to and from work, during the course of work, and to and from a DUI program if you:<sup>684</sup>

- Submit evidence of enrollment in a DUI program.
- File proof of insurance (SR 22) and maintain it for five years.
- Pay all applicable fees.

If you enroll and fail to participate in a DUI program, or do not complete the program, the DMV will immediately revoke your restricted license and re-impose the suspension.<sup>685</sup> It will run for the remainder of the original suspension.

### Administrative License Suspension (ALS) System

In addition to sanctions imposed as a result of a court conviction, DUI offenders face administrative license actions (suspensions and revocations) by the DMV. These actions are mandatory (the DMV must apply them on violators) and independent of any criminal penalties imposed by a court.

The administrative license suspension process begins when a driver is cited for DUI. The driver's license is taken on the spot

by the arresting law enforcement officer if the driver:

- Violates the civil *per se* laws (.01 percent for drivers under 21; .08 percent for drivers 21 and over).
- Refuses a chemical test requested by an officer.

Licensed offenders are then served with a DMV order of suspension/revocation that serves as a 30-day license. Drivers have 10 days to request a hearing to prevent their license from being revoked. Otherwise, suspensions and revocations take effect automatically in 30 days.

At the DMV hearing, only a limited number of issues may be considered. For all drivers, the DMV will consider whether:

- The officer had reasonable cause to believe the driver had an illegally high BAC while driving a vehicle.
- The driver was lawfully arrested (or lawfully detained if under 21 years of age).

For drivers who refuse (or fail to complete) a chemical test, the DMV will also consider whether:

- The driver refused a chemical

test or, if under age 21, a preliminary alcohol screening (PAS) test.

- The driver was informed that a refusal would result in suspension or revocation. For drivers who complete a chemical test, the DMV will also consider whether the driver's BAC was .08 percent or greater (.01 percent or greater if under age 21).

Drivers have a right to appeal the decision of their ALS hearing. The first appeal is to the DMV for a case review; later reviews are to a court of law. ALS hearings are independent of criminal prosecutions; that is, proceedings and findings in one venue do not affect proceedings and findings in the other. However, there are two important exceptions to this rule. If the court dismisses the DUI charge and does not prosecute, drivers over age 21 have a renewed right to another hearing, where the same issues identified above will be considered. Also, a not-guilty verdict in a criminal DUI case overturns an ALS determination and its sanctions.

### **TIPS TO HELP YOU AVOID**

#### **DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL (DUI)**

- Set a safe limit in advance and don't go above it.
- Space your drinks. Try not to have more than one drink per hour.
- Taper off and STOP DRINKING at least one hour before you drive.
- Eat before and while you are drinking.
- Don't drink alcohol if you are taking medicine or drugs.
- Designate a nondrinking driver.
- Arrange alternative transportation.

**By strictly following these tips, you can greatly lower your chances of being arrested or having a crash.**

**Remember that coffee can't help sober you up.**

## OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST

### Emergency Warning Signals

Flashing lights are not allowed on non-emergency motor vehicles, except for turn signals and disabled-vehicle warning signals.<sup>686</sup> Motorcycles may use modulating-beam headlights by day.<sup>687</sup>

Disabled-vehicle warning signals must be at least two lights in front and two in the rear. All such lights must flash at the same time.<sup>688</sup> Do not use left- or right-turn lights alone. Flashing warning lights must be used to:

- Mark a vehicle disabled on (or within 10 feet of) the roadway.<sup>689</sup>
- Warn other drivers of a crash or hazard on the roadway.<sup>690</sup>
- Identify vehicles in a funeral procession.<sup>691</sup>

### Mature Driver Program

The Mature Driver Improvement Program is an eight-hour course for drivers age 55 and older.<sup>692</sup> After completing the initial eight-hour course, a driver may renew the completion certificate by completing a four-hour renewal course. It is specifically designed for their safe driving needs. The course addresses changes that occur with aging, how these changes affect driving skills, and how to compensate for them. The

course provides strategies to improve how you predict, interpret, and react to what is happening in the traffic environment, particularly at intersections where many traffic collisions occur.

The Auto Club offers an online Mature Driver Improvement Program through its partner I DRIVE SAFELY. Members receive 20 percent off when they sign up from AAA.com.

Drivers who complete the program and receive a completion certificate from the DMV may qualify for insurance discounts;<sup>693</sup> call the Auto Club to see if you qualify for this discount.

California has no driving age limit. If you are an older driver and can handle your vehicle safely and skillfully, you can drive as long as your health permits.

Safety is a serious issue for older drivers. Based on miles driven, the traffic crash rate for drivers age 75 and older is exceeded only by the rate for drivers under 25 years of age. Many of these crashes are attributable to behaviors associated with the aging process, such as forgetfulness, shortened attention span, medication side effects, and reduced ability to respond quickly to emergency situations. As you

## SAFETY TIPS FOR OLDER DRIVERS

- Get a doctor's advice about your driving. If you are advised to avoid heavy or fast traffic or night driving, follow this advice.
- Have an eye examination to test your ability to perceive distances and objects at night. If you need new glasses, get them before continuing to drive.
- Don't drive after taking medication unless your doctor has indicated your driving abilities will not be affected.
- Never drive after drinking alcohol.
- Have a driving instructor check your driving and make suggestions. An experienced instructor can help you polish your driving skills, as well as spot faulty habits and provide advice to overcome them.
- Keep up-to-date on traffic laws and rules for safe driving.
- Plan every trip—short or long—before leaving. Avoid heavily traveled or high-speed routes. Getting there is more important than arriving quickly. Stay away from routes or areas that cause you stress.
- Avoid driving too slowly for traffic conditions. It is nearly as dangerous as driving too fast. By traveling too slow, vehicles may tailgate or go around you, increasing the risk of a crash.
- Finally, always use your seat belts, and require your passengers to use theirs as well. Seat belts provide protection in a crash or other emergency. Also, it's the law.

age, you may experience the onset of physical limitations such as diminished vision and hearing and slowed reaction time; these may require you to stop driving and find other means of transportation.

Older drivers, particularly those over 75 years of age, need to periodically assess their abilities and skills to determine if any problems exist that might endan-

ger their own safety and the safety of others.

### Vehicle Registration

This is a brief summary of California's vehicle registration requirements. Contact the DMV for more complete details.

Auto Club members can register or renew the registration of vehicles at any DMV office or Auto Club office.



## REGISTERING A CALIFORNIA VEHICLE

When you purchase a new or used vehicle from a licensed California dealer, the dealer collects State Board of Equalization sales tax and DMV fees necessary to register and title the vehicle.

A dealer sends to the DMV the fees and documents to register and title the vehicle<sup>694</sup> and gives you papers showing temporary operating authority. You can legally drive with this until your new license plates and registration card arrive.<sup>695</sup> The dealer is allowed 30 days from the date of sale to submit the forms and fees to the DMV.<sup>696</sup> Usually within six to eight weeks of your purchase, you will receive a Registration Card and stickers from the DMV. If appropriate and there is no lien holder, you will also be sent a Certificate of Title. If you purchase a vehicle from a private party, you are responsible for transferring the vehicle within 10 days. The DMV will collect from you any applicable sales tax and the appropriate transfer and registration fees.<sup>697</sup>

You will need the following items to register a vehicle:

- Certificate of Title or Application for Duplicate Title (DMV form REG 227), properly endorsed and completed by the seller and buyer.<sup>698</sup>
- Purchase price and date.

- Smog certification provided by the seller, if required.<sup>699</sup>
- Use tax payment, if applicable.
- Odometer Mileage Disclosure statement, if applicable.<sup>700</sup>
- Appropriate DMV fees (which include registration and transfer fees).<sup>701</sup>
- Proof of financial responsibility.<sup>702</sup>

When you sell or transfer a vehicle, you must report it to the DMV within 5 days on DMV form Notice of Release of Liability (REG 138).<sup>703</sup> You must enter the name and address of the purchaser and the date of transfer.<sup>704</sup>

## REGISTERING AN OUT-OF-STATE VEHICLE

If you own a vehicle currently registered in another state or foreign country, you must register the vehicle in California within 20 days following the establishment of residency or employment here.<sup>705</sup> An exemption exists for nonresident daily commuters.<sup>706</sup>

Nonresident military personnel and their spouses are permitted to operate their vehicles in California with their valid home-state license plates until they expire. They may either renew their vehicle registration in their home state (before the end of the registration period) or register the vehicle in California.<sup>707</sup> You will need the following items to

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register the vehicle:

- Completed Application for Registration (DMV form REG 343).<sup>708</sup>
- Out-of-state title.<sup>709</sup> This also includes surrender of the out-of-state license plates.
- Last-issued out-of-state registration card.
- Smog certification (1976 and newer motor vehicles only).<sup>710</sup>
- Weight certificate (for commercial vehicles and trailers only).
- Appropriate DMV fees (which include registration and use tax, if due).<sup>711</sup>
- Odometer Mileage Disclosure statement, if applicable.<sup>712</sup>

## APPENDIX A

### Practice Quiz on California Vehicle Code

Listed below are practice questions to help you prepare for your DMV written test.

- 1) ***When pulling out from a curb parking space:***
  - a) Do not start until you can move with reasonable safety.
  - b) Give an arm signal and sound your horn as a warning, then start moving away from the curb.
  - c) Signal, then pull out into traffic after yielding to three vehicles.
- 2) ***When entering or crossing a highway from public or private property or from an alley, which must yield the right of way?***
  - a) The car entering the highway.
  - b) The car traveling on the highway.
  - c) Neither car.
- 3) ***When two vehicles enter an intersection at the same time from different highways not controlled by stop signs, traffic signals, or yield right-of-way signs:***
  - a) The driver of the vehicle on the right shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the left.
  - b) The driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.
  - c) Both vehicles must stop.
- 4) ***You must never leave a child under 6 years of age in a vehicle unless the child is supervised by a person:***
  - a) Age 10 or older.
  - b) Age 12 or older.
  - c) Age 18 or older.
- 5) ***California has an allowable Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of less than .10%. Drivers age 21 and older are presumed to be Driving Under the Influence (DUI) with a BAC of at least:***
  - a) .10%
  - b) .08%
  - c) .05%
- 6) ***All states have a Zero Tolerance Law for drivers under age 21 to prevent their driving with any “measurable” amount of alcohol. In California, drivers younger than 21 may not drive a motor vehicle with a BAC of:***
  - a) .01% or more.

- b) .04% or more.
  - c) .08% or more.
- 7) ***If you are arrested for driving under the influence and you refuse to submit to a chemical test of the alcohol in your body, your license will be suspended for:***
- a) 90 days.
  - b) 6 months.
  - c) 1 year.
- 8) ***Abandoning or dumping an unwanted animal on a highway may be punished by:***
- a) A fine up to \$1,000.
  - b) Up to 6 months in county jail.
  - c) Both the fine and jail sentence.
- 9) ***You must never drive faster, under the Basic Speed Law, than:***
- a) The speed of other traffic.
  - b) It is safe, with due consideration to weather, visibility, traffic, and the safety of others.
  - c) You determine is reasonable.
- 10) ***When passing school grounds where a school warning sign is posted and children are going to or coming from school, the speed limit is:***
- a) 25 mph, unless posted lower.
  - b) 35 mph.
  - c) 30 mph after 12 noon.
- 11) ***The speed limit in a business district is:***
- a) 25 mph.
  - b) 30 mph.
  - c) 35 mph.
- 12) ***If a vehicle is moving slowly on a two-lane highway, holding up traffic, it must turn off at a turnout or other safe place if closely followed by:***
- a) Three vehicles.
  - b) Five vehicles.
  - c) Neither of these. It should speed up to the speed of the following vehicles.
- 13) ***Turn signals must be given continuously for:***
- a) 200 feet before turning.
  - b) 100 feet before turning.
  - c) 3 to 5 seconds before turning.
- 14) ***A two-way left-turn lane in the middle of a street will show pavement striping on each side of this lane as follows:***
- a) Two solid lines.
  - b) Solid lines outside, dashed lines inside.
  - c) Dashed outside lines, solid inside lines.

**15) If a left turn can be made from two designated left-turn lanes, you can start a U-turn from:**

- a) Either lane.
- b) Only the left-most turn lane.
- c) Both lanes, unless a sign prevents it.

**16) The correct position in the street from which to make a left-hand turn is:**

- a) From any part of the street, provided you signal, as well as look into the rearview mirror.
- b) From the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the same direction of travel.
- c) It doesn't matter unless you cut the corner by turning before entering the intersection.

**17) A driver may make a right turn at an intersection:**

- a) Only from the lane next to the right curb.
- b) From the right-most lane, or from another lane or lanes marked for a right turn.
- c) Only if other drivers are turning from the additional lane or lanes.

**18) Pedestrians have the right of way in crosswalks:**

- a) Only in business districts.
- b) When crossing in a marked crosswalk or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- c) Only in a marked crosswalk.

**19) When another car has stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross, you may pass the stopped car:**

- a) On the right if the pedestrian is crossing toward the left, or on the left if the pedestrian is crossing toward the right.
- b) On either side if the pedestrian is in front of the stopped vehicles.
- c) Under no circumstances.

**20) A driver must stop for a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing when:**

- a) The bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway.
- b) The bus is on the opposite side of a multilane highway.
- c) The bus is at an intersection controlled by a traffic signal.

**21) A driver convicted of passing a stopped school bus displaying flashing red lights can be punished as follows:**

- a) By a fine of up to \$100 for each violation, no matter how many.

- b) Not at all—because the bus is stopped, it's not a moving violation.
- c) By a \$150–\$250 first-offense fine, a \$500–\$1,000 second-offense fine, and a one-year suspension for a third offense within three years.

**22) *If your vehicle is disabled on the roadway and is equipped with a working four-way flasher device:***

- a) You may activate the flashers if you reasonably believe your vehicle creates a hazard.
- b) You must activate the flashers as a warning to other motorists.
- c) You need activate the flashers only if disabled 30 minutes or later after sunset.

**23) *The driver of a vehicle involved in any accident resulting in injury to or death of any person must make a written report to the California Highway Patrol or, if in a city, to either the CHP or the local police department:***

- a) Within 10 days.

- b) Within 24 hours.
- c) At the scene of the accident.

**24) *Which of these painted curb colors—and parking indicators—is not authorized?***

- a) Red—no stopping, standing, or parking except for buses.
- b) Orange—parking for construction workers.
- c) Blue—parking for the disabled.

**25) *A child must be buckled into an approved safety seat if he or she is:***

- a) under 6 years old and less than 60 pounds.
- b) under 6 years old or less than 60 pounds.
- c) under 8 years old and less than 80 pounds.

**26) *The penalty for attempting to evade, flee, or otherwise elude a pursuing officer is:***

- a) Five years in state prison.
- b) Up to one year in the county jail.
- c) Three years in the county jail.

## Practice Quiz on Road Signs

1)



- a) Watch for cars entering from the side
- b) One-lane road—no passing
- c) Highway ahead is divided

2)



- a) Watch for school bus unloading passengers
- b) School area—slow down and proceed with caution
- c) School pedestrian crossing

3)



- a) Sidewalk ends
- b) Pedestrian crossing
- c) Yield to oncoming traffic

4)



If a parking space shows this symbol it means parking only for:

- a) Cars with special plates or signs issued to the disabled
- b) Shopping carts
- c) Compact cars

5)



- a) Rough road
- b) Pavement ends
- c) Railroad crossing

6)



- a) No passing
- b) Cross traffic must give you the right-of-way
- c) Let cross traffic go by first

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7)



- a) Not a through street
- b) Signalized intersection ahead
- c) Divided road

9)



- a) Snakes on road ahead
- b) Slippery when wet
- c) Caution, visibility restricted when road curves ahead

8)



- a) Reduce speed
- b) Stop, if necessary
- c) Make complete stop at all times

10)



- a) Rain ahead
- b) Right lane ends, merge left
- c) Service road enters



# APPENDIX B

## Annotations to the California Vehicle Code

1	V.C. § 12500(a)	26	V.C. § 12817	51	V.C. § 12804.9(b) (3)(E)
2	V.C. § 12951(a)	27	V.C. § 12817	52	V.C. § 35780
3	V.C. § 12951(b)	28	V.C. § 12518	53	V.C. § 12804.9(b) (3)(F)
4	V.C. § 20002(a)(1)	29	V.C. § 12518	54	V.C. § 12804.9(b) (3)(F)(ii)
5	V.C. § 12804.9(a)	30	V.C. § 12502(a)(1)	55	V.C. § 12804.9(b) (3)(G)
6	V.C. § 12804.9(a)	31	V.C. § 12505(c)	56	V.C. § 21715(a)
7	V.C. § 12807(c)	32	V.C. § 516 and V.C. § 12505(a)	57	V.C. § 21715(b)
8	V.C. § 12811	33	V.C. § 12504(a)	58	V.C. § 12804.9(b) (1)(B)
9	V.C. § 12800 and V.C. § 12801	34	V.C. § 12504(b)	59	V.C. § 12804.9(j)
10	V.C. § 12800(c)	35	V.C. § 12515	60	V.C. § 668
11	V.C. § 12801.5	36	V.C. § 12504(b)(2)	61	V.C. § 12804.9(b)(4)
12	V.C. § 12803	37	V.C. § 4000.5 and V.C. § 20	62	V.C. § 12804.9(b)(5)
13	V.C. § 12800.5(a)	38	V.C. § 14607	63	V.C. § 12804.9(b)(4) and (5)
14	V.C. § 12500	39	V.C. § 14606	64	V.C. § 12804.9(i)(4)
15	V.C. § 12800.7 and V.C. § 12801.5	40	V.C. § 14604	65	V.C. § 12806(a)
16	V.C. § 17700	41	V.C. § 14602.6(a)	66	V.C. § 12809(c)
17	V.C. § 17701	42	V.C. § 12804.9 (b)(1)	67	V.C. § 12809(d)
18	V.C. § 17708	43	V.C. § 15250.5	68	V.C. § 12805(b)
19	V.C. § 12515(a)	44	V.C. § 1525.6(b)	69	V.C. § 12805(c)
20	V.C. § 12516	45	V.C. § 12804.12(a)	70	V.C. § 12806(c)
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24	V.C. § 12501(c)	49	V.C. § 12804.9(b)(3)		
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81	V.C. § 12801.2	109	V.C. § 12814(a)	137	V.C. § 12814.6(b)
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83	V.C. § 14902	111	V.C. § 14600	139	V.C. § 12810.5(a)
84	V.C. § 13002(a)	112	V.C. § 12815	140	V.C. § 12814.6(a)(7)
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95	V.C. § 12807	123	V.C. § 13359	151	V.C. § 14104.7
96	V.C. § 12807(c)	124	V.C. § 40500	152	V.C. § 13351(b)
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98	V.C. § 12814.5(a)	126	V.C. § 40509.5(a)	154	V.C. § 13200
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176 V.C. § 12800.7 and V.C. § 12801.5	203 V.C. § 11105.1(c)(2)	231 V.C. § 12814.6(a) (8)(A)(1)
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244	V.C. § 16020(b)(1) and V.C. § 4000.37	270	V.C. § 21452(a)	299	V.C. § 275
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253	V.C. § 16070(a)	279	V.C. § 27315	308	V.C. § 21800(a)
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259	V.C. § 22358.4	285	V.C. § 21460(a)	314	V.C. § 22100(b)
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261	V.C. § 21453(a)	287	V.C. § 21460.5(a)	316	V.C. § 21801(a)
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325 V.C. § 21453(b)	355 V.C. § 24604	382 V.C. § 22352(a) (2) (B)
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608 V.C. § 21235	637 V.C. § 21260(a)	
	638 V.C. § 21260(b)(1)	



659 V.C. § 23222(a)	678 V.C. § 13202.5(a)	697 V.C. § 5902
660 V.C. § 23222 and V.C. § 23223	679 V.C. § 13202.5(a)	698 V.C. § 5902
661 V.C. § 23225	680 V.C. § 23502	699 V.C. § 4000.1
662 V.C. § 23225(a)(2)	681 V.C. § 13353(c)	700 V.C. § 5906.5(a) and V.C. § 5900(b)
663 V.C. § 23224	682 V.C. § 13353.2(e)	701 V.C. § 5902
664 V.C. § 23224	683 V.C. § 13352(a)(1)	702 V.C. § 4000.37
665 V.C. § 23229	684 V.C. § 13352.5(a)	703 V.C. § 5900(a)
666 V.C. § 23612(a)(1)	685 V.C. § 13352.5(f)	704 V.C. § 5900(a)
667 V.C. § 13353	686 V.C. § 25250 and V.C. § 25251	705 V.C. § 6700
668 V.C. § 23612	687 V.C. § 25251.2	706 V.C. § 6700.2
669 V.C. § 25251(a)(3)	688 V.C. § 25251(a)(2)	707 V.C. § 6701
670 V.C. § 23612(a)(4)	689 V.C. § 25251(b)	708 V.C. § 4300
671 V.C. § 13353(a)	690 V.C. § 25251(a)(3)	709 V.C. § 4301
672 V.C. § 13353(a)	691 V.C. § 25251(a)(5)	710 V.C. § 4000.1 and V.C. § 4000.2
673 V.C. § 14602.8	692 V.C. § 1675	711 V.C. § 4300.5
674 V.C. § 13388(a)	693 V.C. § 1675(d)	712 V.C. § 23538, V.C. § 23556 and V.C. § 5906.5
675 V.C. § 13388	694 V.C. § 4456(a)	
676 V.C. § 13388	695 V.C. § 4456(c)	
677 V.C. § 13388(a)(1)	696 V.C. § 4456(a)(2)	

## APPENDIX C

### Answers to Practice Quiz on California Vehicle Code

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. A (V.C. § 22106, 7)                     | 15. B (V.C. § 22100.5)                  |
| 2. A (V.C. § 21804)                        | 16. B (V.C. § 22100(b))                 |
| 3. B (V.C. § 21800(b))                     | 17. B (V.C. § 22100(a)(3))              |
| 4. B (V.C. § 15620.5)                      | 18. B (V.C. § 21950)                    |
| 5. B (V.C. § 23152(b))                     | 19. C (V.C. § 21951)                    |
| 6. A (V.C. § 23136(a))                     | 20. C (V.C. § 22454)                    |
| 7. C (V.C. § 13353(a))                     | 21. C (V.C. § 22454.5)                  |
| 8. C (V.C. § 1666.5)                       | 22. B (V.C. § 25251(b))                 |
| 9. B (V.C. § 22350)                        | 23. B (V.C. § 20008(a))                 |
| 10. A (V.C. § 22352(b),<br>V.C. § 22358.4) | 24. B (V.C. § 21458)                    |
| 11. A (V.C. § 22352(b))                    | 25. B (V.C. § 27360)                    |
| 12. B (V.C. § 21656)                       | 26. B (V.C. § 2800.1,<br>V.C. § 2800.3) |
| 13. B (V.C. § 22108)                       |   |
| 14. B (V.C. § 21460.5)                     |   |

### Answers to Practice Quiz on Road Signs

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. C  |
| 2. B | 7. B  |
| 3. B | 8. C  |
| 4. A | 9. C  |
| 5. C | 10. B |

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