



MICHIGAN BICYCLIST LAWS: GUIDE FOR THE PUBLIC

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A "bicycle" is a two- or three-wheeled device that is human-powered and has wheels that are more than 14 inches in diameter.

BICYCLISTS



- ◆ Bicyclists have the same rights on the road as motorists. Bicyclists also must obey the laws and rules of the road the same as motorists.

Violating any of the laws listed below could result in a ticket.

- ◆ Use proper hand signals when stopping or turning.
- ◆ Ride as close to the right-hand edge of the road as possible, except when...
 - » *Passing.*
 - » *Turning left.*
 - » *Conditions on the right-hand edge are unsafe.*
 - » *Proceeding straight at an intersection.*
 - » *Riding on a one-way street, where a bicyclist may legally also ride on the left-hand edge.*
- ◆ Only sit on the bicycle seat.
- ◆ Only have the number of people on a bicycle that it was designed to carry.

Bicyclists must travel with the normal flow of traffic. Because bicyclists typically travel slower than the posted speed limit, they should keep to the edge of the road whenever possible.

- ◆ A bicyclist must not hold onto or be tethered to a vehicle while riding.
- ◆ Ride with no more than two bicycles side by side.

- ◆ Do not ride on a freeway.
- ◆ Keep both hands on the handlebars.
- ◆ At night, use a white lamp on the front of your bicycle and a red reflector—or a red reflector with a red light—on the rear.
- ◆ Make sure your bicycle is equipped with properly working brakes.
- ◆ Parents or guardians should teach their child(ren) to obey the bicycle laws.

SIDEWALKS

- ◆ A bicyclist may ride on a sidewalk or crosswalk, if...
 - » *There are no rules prohibiting it in that area.*
 - » *The bicyclist yields the right-of-way to pedestrians.*
 - » *The bicyclist gives an audible signal before passing a pedestrian.*
 - » *The bicyclist follows the same laws and rules for pedestrians.*

Local communities can have rules or laws that restrict bicycle use on sidewalks.

- ◆ A bicyclist may park a bicycle on a sidewalk, if...
 - » *There are no rules prohibiting it in that area.*
 - » *It does not interfere with pedestrians using the sidewalk.*
- ◆ Follow the "Rules of the Road" for vehicles in general, including...
 - » *Yield the right-of-way.*
 - » *Yield when turning left at an intersection.*
 - » *Yield to traffic when leaving a private drive.*
 - » *Obey all traffic signs and signals.*
 - » *Stay alert and cautious when riding.*

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MOTORISTS



Violating any of the laws listed below could result in a ticket.

Michigan law requires at least 3 feet of space when passing a bicyclist, measured from the vehicle's side mirror.

Drivers may safely pass a bicyclist in a no-passing zone.

- ◆ Travel at a speed that will allow for a safe stopping distance when following a bicyclist.

GENERAL RULES



- ◆ A city, township, or village can adopt these laws into their local ordinances.

A bicyclist is not impeding traffic when they are keeping to the edge of the road when possible and traveling with the flow of traffic.

- ◆ A local authority cannot adopt a local law that provides lesser penalties or that conflicts with the state laws.
- ◆ A local authority can adopt their own regulations for bicyclists, such as requiring registrations or licenses for bicycles.
- ◆ Bicycling offenses will not be recorded on a person's driver's license, except for offenses involving...
 - » *A controlled substance*
 - » *A minor in possession of alcohol*
 - » *Open alcohol*

REFERENCES FOR LAWS

DEFINITIONS

Bicycle	MCL 257.4
Highway or Street	MCL 257.20

BICYCLISTS

Rights and Duties of Bicyclists	MCL 257.657
Signals for Stopping or Turning	MCL 257.648
Keep Right	MCL 257.660a
Riding on Seat of Bicycle	MCL 257.658(1)
Multiple Riders	MCL 257.658(2)
Riding While Attached to a Vehicle	MCL 257.659
Riding More than Two Side by Side	MCL 257.660b
Limited Access Highways	MCL 257.679a
Operating on Sidewalks	MCL 257.660c
Parking on Sidewalks	MCL 257.660d
Carrying Packages	MCL 257.661
Lights and Reflectors	MCL 257.662(1)
Brakes	MCL 257.662(2)
Parents or Guardians	MCL 257.656(2)
Fail to Yield Right-of-Way	MCL 257.649
Fail to Yield-Left at Intersection	MCL 257.650
Fail to Stop-Leaving Private Drive	MCL 257.652
Disobey Stop, Yield, or Merge Sign	MCL 257.671
Disobey Traffic Signal	MCL 257.612, MCL 257.614
Careless Driving	MCL 257.626b
Impeding Traffic	MCL 257.676b

MOTORISTS

Three-Foot Passing Law	MCL 257.636(2) (3)
Bicycle Racks on Vehicles	MCL 257.225(2)
Following a Bicyclist (Basic Speed Law)	MCL 257.627(1)

GENERAL RULES

Uniform Traffic Code	MCL 257.951
Local Laws and Regulations	MCL 257.605, MCL 257.606
Secretary of State Master Driving Record	MCL 257.732



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