

Wisconsin Pedestrian Laws

This law card is intended to summarize Wisconsin Pedestrian Laws. Information included in this card is not all-inclusive and laws are subject to change. The numbers in brackets refer to State Statutes.

Pedestrian: Any person afoot or any person in a manual or powered wheelchair. [see 340.01(43) for complete definition]

Crosswalk: Marked crosswalk, any portion of a highway clearly indicated for pedestrian crossing by signs, lines or other markings on the surface; or

Unmarked crosswalk: In the absence of signs, lines or markings, that part of a roadway, at an intersection, which would be formed on such roadway by connecting the corresponding lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of such roadway or, in the absence of a corresponding sidewalk on one side of the roadway, that part of such roadway which is included within the extension of the lateral lines of the existing sidewalk across such roadway at right angles to the center line. [340.01(10)(a)(b)]

Yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian: The operator of a vehicle is required to reduce speed, or stop if necessary, to avoid endangering, colliding with or interfering in any way with pedestrian travel. [340.01(75)]

Blind pedestrian on highway: An operator of a vehicle shall stop the vehicle before approaching closer than 10 feet to a pedestrian who is carrying a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white trimmed with red and which is held in an extended or raised position or who is using a service animal and shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid accident or injury to the pedestrian. The fact that the pedestrian may be violating any of the laws applicable to pedestrians does not relieve the operator of a vehicle from the duties imposed by this subsection. [346.26(1)]

Crossing at uncontrolled intersection

or crosswalk: At an intersection or crosswalk where traffic is not controlled by traffic control signals or by a traffic officer, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian, or to a person riding a bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device in a manner which is consistent with the safe use of the crosswalk by pedestrians, who is crossing the highway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk. [346.24(1)]

Crossing at place other than crosswalk: Every pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked or unmarked crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway. [346.25]

Passing a vehicle stopped for

pedestrians: Whenever any vehicle is stopped at an intersection or crosswalk to permit a pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device to cross the roadway, the operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle. [346.24(3)]

Vehicles to stop at stop signs and school

crossings: Every operator of a motor vehicle approaching a school crossing, which is controlled by an adult school crossing guard shall follow the directions of the school crossing guard. If directed by the school crossing guard to stop, the operator shall stop the vehicle not less than 10 feet nor more than 30 feet from the school crossing and shall remain stopped until the school crossing guard directs the operator to proceed. [346.46(2m)]

Pedestrians to walk on left side of highway: Any pedestrian traveling along and upon a highway other than upon a sidewalk shall travel on and the left side of the highway and upon meeting a vehicle shall, if practicable, move to the extreme outer limit of the traveled portion of the highway. [346.28(1)]

Crossing controlled intersection or crosswalk:

At an intersection or crosswalk where traffic is controlled by signals or by a traffic officer, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian, or to a person who is riding a bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device in a manner which is consistent with the safe use of the crosswalk by pedestrians, who has started to cross the highway on a green or "Walk" signal and in all other cases pedestrians, bicyclists, and riders of electric personal assistive mobility devices shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully proceeding directly ahead on a green signal. No operator of a vehicle proceeding ahead on a green signal may begin a turn at a controlled intersection or crosswalk when a pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device crossing in the crosswalk on a green or "Walk" signal would be endangered or interfered with in any way. [346.23(1)]



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Program (HS 244)
07-2017