

## ***Welcome to Walking!***

Walking is a fun, healthy activity that is enjoyed by many people. Learning the traffic and trail rules will allow walking to be as safe as possible. Pedestrian safety is a two-way street—both drivers and walkers must do their part.

### ***Safety Tips for Motorists...***

- Regardless of all other traffic laws, it is the driver's responsibility to do everything necessary to avoid colliding with any pedestrian, even if the pedestrian is not following the law.
- When you see a child or obviously confused or incapacitated person, take whatever precautions are necessary to operate safely and avoid the potential for a collision.
- You must drive at a speed as slow as necessary for safe operation at all times, but particularly around pedestrians and children. This careful and prudent speed may in many cases be slower than the posted speed limit.
- On a roadway without a sidewalk pedestrians may legally walk on the side of the road or shoulder. It is the driver's responsibility to approach and pass such pedestrians safely, exercising the highest degree of care at all times.
- Pedestrians have the right of way in both marked *and unmarked* crosswalks (except at intersections with "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signals—then pedestrians must follow those signals). Drivers are to slow or stop, as necessary, to allow people to cross.
- When one motorist is stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross the road, all other drivers must stop, too. Do not pass a vehicle that has stopped to yield to a pedestrian.
- Be especially careful to watch for pedestrians when turning at intersections. The pedestrian usually has the right of way in the marked or unmarked crosswalk you cross when completing your turn. Pedestrians may come from an unexpected direction and may not expect a vehicle to cross their path.
- If you encounter a pedestrian with visual, physical, or hearing impairment who is using a white cane or guide dog, you should slow and take precautions, yielding to that person as necessary.

### ***Safety Tips for Pedestrians...***

- Pedestrians have the right of way at marked *and unmarked* crosswalks (at signalized intersections you must follow the "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signs and other traffic signals). But use common sense!
- Look out for traffic in *all* directions; be especially careful of turning traffic at intersections.
- Give the motorist time to react; do not unexpectedly step out in front of a motorist.
- As a courtesy to other pedestrians, walk on the right-hand side of crosswalks.
- When no crosswalk is present, pedestrians crossing must yield to motorists and are to cross the road by the shortest route (not diagonally unless specifically authorized by signals or markings).
- Except where crosswalks are provided, pedestrians are not to cross streets between signalized intersections, in business districts or when prohibited by local ordinance.
- At railroad crossings and on bridges, follow operation signals and do not cross a barrier or gate that is down.
- Pedestrians must use sidewalks if sidewalks are available.
- Where sidewalks are not present, pedestrians are to walk on the side of the road or shoulder. Walk on the left side, facing traffic, if possible.
- Wear brightly colored and/or reflective clothing.
- Visibility drops in the dark. When walking at night, dawn or dusk, wear or carry reflective articles and/or carry a flashlight.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing to make sure they see you.
- When available, use pedestrian crossing facilities such as tunnels and bridges.
- Be especially careful crossing multi-lane roads. The motorist in the first lane may stop for you, but motorists in other lanes may not see you or may not realize they must stop. Check for traffic before moving across each lane.
- For more information, see the Revised Statutes of Missouri: 300.010, 300.160, 300.370, 300.375, 300.380, 300.385, 300.390, 300.395, 300.400, 300.405, 300.410, 304.012, 304.080, 304.291.

# Missouri State Statutes Regarding Pedestrians - *October 2004*

**300.160. Pedestrian control signals.** Whenever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words “Walk” or “Don’t Walk” are in place such signals shall indicate as follows: (1) “Walk”... pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles; (2) “Wait” or “Don’t Walk”... no pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the walk.

**300.370. Pedestrians subject to traffic control devices.** Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic control signals as heretofore declared in sections 300.155 and 300.160 of this ordinance, but at all other places pedestrians shall be granted those rights and be subject to the restrictions stated in sections 300.370 to 300.410.

**300.375. Pedestrians’ right-of-way in crosswalks.** (1) When traffic control signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger. (2) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. (3) Subsection 1 shall not apply under the conditions stated in subsection 2 of section 300.390. (4) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

**300.380. Pedestrians to use right half of crosswalks.** Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.

**300.385. Crossing at right angles.** No pedestrian shall cross a roadway at any place other than by a route at right angles to the curb or by the shortest route to the opposite curb except in a crosswalk.

**300.390. When pedestrian shall yield.** (1) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway. (2) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway. (3) The foregoing rules in this section have no application under the conditions stated in section 300.395 when pedestrians are prohibited from crossing at certain designated places.

**300.395. Prohibited crossing.** (1) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a crosswalk. (2) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway other than in a crosswalk in any business district. (3) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway other than in a crosswalk upon any street designated by ordinance. (4) No

pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians shall cross only in accordance with the official traffic control devices pertaining to such crossing movements.

**300.400. Obedience of pedestrians to bridge and railroad signals.** (1) No pedestrian shall enter or remain upon any bridge or approach thereto beyond the bridge signal, gate, or barrier after a bridge operation signal indication has been given. (2) No pedestrian shall pass through, around, over, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

**300.405. Pedestrians walking along roadways.** (1) Where sidewalks are provided it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway. (2) Where sidewalks are not provided any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall when practicable walk only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic, which may approach from the opposite direction.

**300.410. Drivers to exercise highest degree of care.** Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of sections 300.155 to 300.410, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise the highest degree of care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway.

**304.012. Motorists to exercise highest degree of care—violation, penalty.** 1. Every person operating a motor vehicle on the road and highways of this state shall drive the vehicle in a careful and prudent manner and at a rate of speed so as not to endanger the property of another or the life or limb of any person and shall exercise the highest degree of care.

**304.080. Pedestrians, disabled persons with cane or dog--drivers, precautions, liability.** The driver of a vehicle approaching a person with a visual, aural or physical disability who is carrying a cane predominantly white or metallic in color, with or without a red tip, or using a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog shall yield to such pedestrian, and any driver who fails to take such precautions shall be liable in damages for any injury caused such pedestrian and any injury caused to the pedestrian's guide dog, hearing dog or service dog; provided that such a pedestrian not carrying such cane or using a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog in any of the places, accommodations or conveyances listed in section 209.150, RSMo, shall have all of the rights and privileges conferred by law upon other persons.

**304.291. Rules for pedestrians controlled by special signs.**

Whenever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the words “Walk” or “Don’t Walk” are in place such signals shall indicate as follows: (1) Walk. - Pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles. (2) Don’t Walk. - No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the “walk” signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the “don’t walk” signal is showing.