



# CENTRAL POLICE DISTRICT

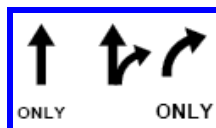
## TRAFFIC RULE REFRESHER

When is the last time you were reminded of a specific “rule of the road,” or traffic law? For many people this only occurs when they have passed the state tests and the driver’s license is issued or when they are cited for a violation. It is not uncommon for officers to be told by a ticketed violator that the violation occurred because of a lack of understanding of the rules. Of course this is generally accompanied by a request for leniency.

When I went through the MPD police recruit training, there was an entire section covering the rules of the road. I realized then how much I had forgotten or never learned from my driver training days as a teenager. So for this newsletter, I will present an overview of some of the rules of the road. Downtown presents some unique situations related to traffic law, so hopefully you will find this useful.

Traffic laws are found in the Wisconsin State Statutes under §346. Most crashes, including serious injury crashes, occur at intersections, so this will be our focus. When moving through an intersection, the general rule is if there is a sign, signal, or marker of some type that directs a traffic movement, that marker should be followed. You will most often see these markers on multi-lane roadway intersections.

Specific lanes are marked to show you how to proceed. During all turning movements, drivers need to be attentive for bicyclists and pedestrians.



It is required to yield to these, as well as vehicles that are lawfully on the roadway. Drivers should *always* signal turning movements during the approach. It is a legal requirement and just plain common sense to let other motorists and pedestrians know which direction you intend to travel.

When engaging in turning movements, there are specific rules to follow for how to approach and complete the turn. When it comes to right turns, the law requires a vehicle operator to approach and turn from the right-most portion on the right-hand side of the roadway. In some cases,

very large trucks making tight right-hand turns need to move somewhat left to actually make the turn. In these cases, the operator of the large vehicle is required to turn with “due regard” for others on the roadway. The point for the rest of us is that when we see the right turn signal activated, you should not try to squeeze in on the right side of these large vehicles. Many have a large blind spot, and it can be difficult for the driver to see you, especially smaller vehicles like mopeds. It is best to wait for the large truck to move through and not try to pass on the right.

Since we are talking about right turns, I will briefly mention the right turn while facing a solid red signal. Vehicle operators are required to stop first and then proceed cautiously while yielding to others lawfully in the intersection. It is very common downtown to see signs that limit a right turn on red to specific times of the day, or to prohibit them altogether.

Let’s flip to the left turns. Left turns are one of the circumstances that lead to many accident investigations. A vehicle operator should approach these from the lane farthest left for traffic in the desired direction of travel, usually just to the left of the centerline. As the turn is completed, the operator is required to turn into the left hand most lane lawfully available for traffic. We have all seen this one done improperly. What happens is a driver will approach the turn properly then complete the turn in the wrong lane on the roadway they are entering, either prompting a crash or a swerve from other vehicles lawfully in the roadway. I have also seen this situation when two lanes are indicated for the left turn. In these cases, you should stay in the your own turn lane. It seems that some drivers are anticipating the next turn and therefore turn into the wrong lane. This movement results in crashes since other drivers do not expect a vehicle to suddenly be occupying a previously open lane.

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## CRIME OVERVIEW

### Person Crimes: *Batteries*

Date	Time	Address	Details
5/2	2:45 am	100 Blk Langdon	Suspect was charged with battery for an incident involving two groups of males and a disturbance over a beer can getting tossed.
5/2	11:45 pm	400 Blk W Mifflin	The victim was attacked when he confronted the suspect who was walking out of the victim's residence carry a case of beer. Suspect charged with Battery.
5/3	12:35 am	State/Gilman	Victim reported he was approached from behind by a suspect demanding money. The victim turned and was struck by a male black (6'3" to 6'5", 225, wearing a blue jacket) and then was kicked by two other suspects (both male blacks, 6'5", 230 and 6'0", 250, respectively) who took his wallet and fled.
5/3	2:00 am	300 Blk N Frances	Victim stated she was battered as she was standing outside smoking a cigarette. Suspect described as male white, 20 years of age, 6'0", 240, blonde hair, muscular build, wearing a short-sleeved white t-shirt with Wisconsin in red lettering.
5/5	11:30 pm	300 Blk S Ingersoll	Suspect arrested and charged with Battery and Intimidation of a Victim for incident involving his live-in girlfriend.
5/5	10:20 pm	300 Blk W Washington	Suspect was arrested and charged with Battery and Strangulation after attacking the victim, his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend.
5/7	4:30 pm	400 Blk State St	Suspect was charged with battery for an incident in Peace Park.
5/7	5:15 am	100 Blk S Hancock	Suspect was arrested on various domestic charges for battering her girlfriend.
5/8	1:40 am	500 Blk State	Three female suspects were arrested for Battery and Disorderly Conduct for an incident in which they battered two male victims.
5/12	1:15 am	100 Blk King St	Suspect was charged with Battery for an incident at Madison's.
5/13	2:30 am	500 Blk W Gilman	Victim was attacked by two suspects as he left the Blue Velvet Lounge having been involved in an incident with the two suspects earlier inside.
5/15	12:05 am	200 Blk Schley Pass	Victim returned home to find a suspect standing near his computer. As he confronted the suspect, another suspect struck him, took his wallet, and fled. Suspects described as male blacks, 25 to 30 years of age, 5'8", 210 and 5'5, 150, respectively. Suspects fled in a 2002/2003 dark blue Ford Explorer.
5/21	11:50 am	400 Blk W Dayton	Victim was pushed and injured by suspect; PC for Domestic Battery.
5/24	1:20 am	100 Blk E Dayton	Victim was struck several times as he was attempting to separate two groups of individuals who were fighting. Victim uncertain of who or how many people struck him.

### Person Crimes: *Robbery*

Date	Time	Address	Details
5/15	11:00 pm	1200 Blk Spring	Victim reported being robbed by four males who took his cell phone, shoes, and currency, one of which was arrested and charged with Robbery. Suspect stated they robbed the victim for his drugs.
5/26	12:50 am	400 Blk W Wilson	Victim reported being confronted by suspect as she was walking home, who grabbed her as she walked by. Victim struck the suspect with her purse and fled. Suspect: male black, 6'2", slender build, gray beard or goatee.

## CRIME OVERVIEW CONTINUED

### Property Crimes: Burglaries

Date	Location	Type	Entry	Targeted/Stolen
5/3	400 Blk W Washington	Residential	Unknown	TV, Playstation III, and two rings (one a UW National Hockey Championship ring)
5/4	300 Blk N Blair	Residential	Screen cut	Two laptops, digital camera.
5/9	1300 Blk Randall Ct	Residential	Unknown	Bicycle
5/17	1000 Blk Fahrenbrook	Residential	Unlocked door	Laptop, miscellaneous personal property
5/18	200 Blk Langdon	Residential	Unknown	Laptops, iPod, miscellaneous property
5/20	100 Blk N Bedford	Residential	Unlocked door	Laptop
5/21	100 Blk Dayton Row	Residential	Unlocked door	Playstation III, Wii, games
5/22	300 Blk E Gorham	Residential	Screen cut	Light bulbs, fixtures, damage to walls
5/23	200 Blk N Hamilton	Residential	Screen kicked in	Nothing missing; victim home at time.
5/25	200 Blk Langdon	Residential	Lock smashed	Nothing additional missing; second incident.

### Disturbances, Other

Date	Time	Location	Details
5/6		W. Johnson/ Wisconsin	Suspect was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct and Carrying a Concealed Weapon for an incident in a vehicle involving his girlfriend. When contacted, the suspect had a 9-1/2-inch kitchen knife secured in his sweat-shirt.
5/9	7:00 pm	600 Blk State St	Suspect arrested for Stalking and Domestic Abuse Injunction for several incidents involving his ex-wife.

## TRAFFIC CONTINUED

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How about a left turn while facing a red signal? This is legal in a limited circumstance, from a one-way to a one-way. The stop and proceeding cautiously still apply.

The key to the turns while facing a red signal is that *no lane of moving traffic can be crossed*. So if you are at a light with two lanes that turn right, the lane to the left most lane cannot proceed on a red signal since to complete the turn it would cross a lane of moving traffic. Often times this rule is reinforced with a sign, although not in all cases. This is why at most intersections you cannot turn left on red. In most cases you will cross a lane of moving traffic, with the one exception listed above, from a one-way to a one-way.

A signal that seems to be misunderstood is the signal

control directional arrow. These are the green arrows pointing left, right, or forward. A great example of this is for northbound traffic on Park Street at Johnson Street. At certain times there is a green arrow in the right-most lane pointing forward. This means traffic can proceed northbound on Park Street but should not turn right since a right turn is not acceptable at that time. If you watch you will see that this allows for the large volume of pedestrians to cross safely. Right turns should not be done on the forward arrow, the arrow directs the allowable movement. There are also intersections that left turns are only lawful when the left arrow is illuminated. Generally a sign accompanies this signal.

The last turning movement we will discuss is the

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# TRAFFIC REVIEW CONTINUED

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U-turn. It is unlawful to complete a U-turn at any intersection controlled by a traffic control signal light. This is the case whether there is a sign or not. U-turns are also not permitted mid-block in a business district.

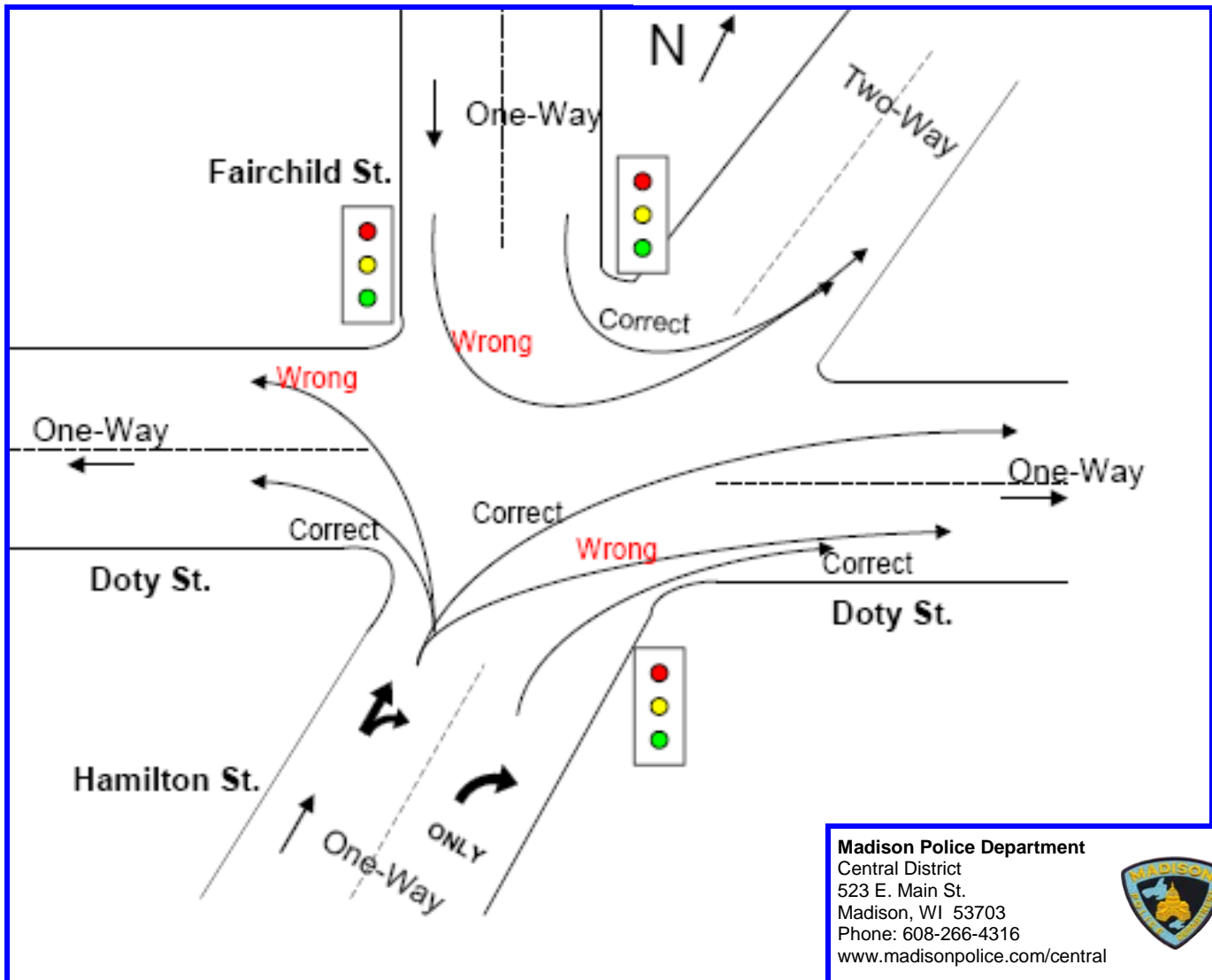
We have a downtown intersection that is a great example of many of these turning rules, Fairchild/Doty/Hamilton. See the diagram for a not-to-scale model of the intersection. Almost every movement through this intersection requires a turn. The only movement that is not a turn is northbound (toward the Capitol) Hamilton from the left-most lane when you are by the courthouse. The turn examples are many; there are two lanes that are allowed to turn right from Hamilton onto eastbound Doty; a left on red is legal from Hamilton to westbound Doty since it is a one-way to a one-way. Approaching on Fairchild to the two-way segment of Hamilton only allows turns from the left-most lane, although both lanes on Fairchild can make the left turn onto eastbound Doty.

If you are going westbound, only the right-most lane is available for the right turn.

Intersection-related crashes are common downtown. Failing to yield right of way to through traffic on turning movements is a major contributing factor. The downtown environment is also full of pedestrians and bicyclists, making turning movements ever more challenging.

There are many demands to the driver navigating our downtown streets, one-way streets with unique circumstances, lots of alternative modes of transportation, and many drivers visiting Madison who don't know their way around our beautiful city. Please consider this when using the cell phone or other devices in your car.

One last note, there are many police, fire, and highway workers out on the roads at any given time. Please be attentive, move over, or slow down.



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