

Bicycles Are Vehicles: Florida's Bicycle Safety Laws



Legal Status-

In Florida the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights to the roadway, and must obey the same traffic laws as the operators of other vehicles. These laws include stopping for stop signs and red lights, riding with the flow of traffic, using lights at night and yielding the right-of-way when entering a roadway.

TRAFFIC LAW HIGHLIGHTS

Bicycle Regulations (Section 316.2065, F.S.)

- Bicyclists must obey all traffic controls and signals.
- Bicyclists must use a fixed, regular seat for riding.
- A bicycle may not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.
- An adult bicyclist may carry a child in a backpack or sling, child seat or trailer designed to carry children.
- A bicyclist may not allow a passenger to remain in a child seat or carrier when not in immediate control of the bicycle.
- Bicyclists and passengers under age 16 must wear an approved bicycle helmet.
- At least one hand must be kept on the handlebars while riding.
- Parents or guardians must not knowingly allow a child or minor ward to violate any provision of the section.
- Every bicycle must be equipped with a brake or brakes which allow the rider to stop within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

Sidewalk Riding (Section 316.2065, F.S.)

- When riding on sidewalks or in crosswalks, a bicyclist has the same rights and duties as a pedestrian.
- A bicyclist riding on sidewalks or in crosswalks must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and must give an audible signal before passing.

Lighting (Section 316.2065, F.S.)

- A bicycle operated between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from 500 feet to the front and both a red reflector and a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from 600 feet to the rear.
- Additional lighting is permitted and recommended. See the "Night Riding" section for safety tips.

Roadway Position (Section 316.2065, F.S.)

- A bicyclist who is not traveling at the same speed of other traffic must ride as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of roadway. A bicyclist may leave the right-most portion of the road in one of the following situations when passing, making a left turn, to avoid hazards, or when a lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a car to share safely.
- A bicyclist operating on a one-way street with two or more traffic lanes may ride as close to the left-hand edge of the roadway as practicable.

- Riding in single file is required except on the bike paths or parts of roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, or when two people riding side-by-side within one lane will not impede traffic flow.

Left Turns (Sub-sections 316.151

(1)(b)(c), F.S.)

- A bicyclist intending to make a vehicle left turn is entitled to full use of the lane from which the turn is made. After scanning, signaling and moving to the center of that lane, the bicyclist must check the signal, then proceed when it is green and safe to do so.
- In addition to the normal vehicle left turn, a bicyclist may proceed through the right-most portion of the intersection and turn as close to the curb or edge as possible at the far side. After complying with any official traffic control device, the bicyclist may proceed in the direction in the new direction of travel.
- Another option available to the bicyclist is to dismount and walk through the intersection in the crosswalk like a pedestrian.

Signaling Turns (Sub-section 316.155(2) and 316.157(2), F.S.)

- A signal of intention to turn must be given during the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning. If a bicyclist needs both hands for control, the signal need not be given continuously.
- A bicyclist may signal intent to turn right either by extending the left hand and arm upward or extending the right hand and arm horizontally to the right side of the bicycle.

Headsets (Section 316.304 F.S.)

- A bicyclist must not wear a headset, headphones or other listening device other than a hearing aid while riding. Wearing a headset blocks out important audio cues needed to detect the presence of other traffic.

Civil Penalties

- Civil penalties may be used for violations of bicycle laws as well as for moving and non-moving violations if applicable.

Local Ordinances

- The local government of counties, cities, towns and other municipalities can adopt ordinances regulating bicycle riding. Some towns may also have registration and licensing ordinances. Sidewalk riding may be prohibited entirely, or in certain areas such as business districts. Local law enforcement agencies can provide copies of local ordinances.

*Information referenced in this pamphlet has been condensed. For detailed or additional information concerning state laws or Town of Jupiter ordinances, feel free to contact:
Jupiter Police Department Beach Patrol
210 Military Trail, Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 746-6201 FAX (561) 746-4545
WEBSITE: www.jupiter.fl.us

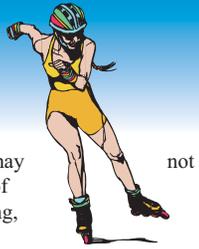
JUPITER Police Department



Welcome To Our A1A Corridor

Our goal is to achieve education and compliance to the laws and ordinances creating a foundation for a safer environment, treating each other with care and respect!

Pedestrian Rules of the Road:



Legal Status-

In Florida, pedestrians are defined, but may be limited to include, commuting by means of walking, running, roller-skating, roller-blading, any coaster, toy vehicle, or similar device.

Pedestrian Regulations (Section 316.130 F.S.)

- A pedestrian shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device specifically applicable to the pedestrian unless otherwise directed by a police officer.
- Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic control signals at intersections.
- 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 is impossible for the driver to yield.
- Every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or any person propelling a human powered vehicle and shall give warning.

Use of Sidewalks (Section 316.130 F.S.)

- Where sidewalks are provided, no pedestrian shall, unless required by other circumstances, walk along and upon the portion of a roadway paved for vehicular traffic.
- Where sidewalks are not provided, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall, when practicable, walk only on the shoulder on the left side of the roadway in relation to the pedestrian's direction of travel, facing traffic which may approach from the opposite direction.

Crosswalk Regulations (Section 316.130 F.S.)

- When traffic control signals are not in place, 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.
- 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.
- Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.
- No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally.

Roller-blading and Other Similar Devices (Section 316.2065 F.S.)

- No person upon roller skates or riding in or by means of any coaster, toy vehicle or similar device, may go upon any roadway except while crossing a street on a crosswalk; and, when so crossing, such person shall be granted all rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to pedestrians.

Parking and Vehicle Regulations: Ordinance Highlights



- **Driving upon a Sidewalk or Bicycle Path (Section 316.1995 F.S.)**-No person shall drive any vehicle other than that by human power upon a bicycle path, or sidewalk.
- **Operation of Radios or Soundmaking Devices in Vehicles (Section 316.3045 F.S.)**-Unlawful for any person operating or occupying a motor vehicle on a street or highway to operate or amplify the sound produced by a radio, or other mechanical soundmaking device from within the motor vehicle so that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of 100 feet or more from the motor vehicle.
- **Additional Parking Regulation (Section 316.195 F.S.)**-Every vehicle stopped or parked upon a two-way roadway shall be so stopped with the right-hand wheels parallel to and within twelve inches of the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
- **Parking Prohibited in Specified Places (Section 316.1945 F.S.)**-No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle on sidewalk, crosswalk or an exclusive bicycle lane.
- **Parking within Delineated Areas (T.O.J. Code Sec. 19-37)**-Every vehicle stopped or parked in an area designated for motor vehicle parking shall be parked in the direction of authorized traffic movement, within 12 inches of the curb, and within the limits of the parking space provided.
- **Violation of Parking Regulations at Beachfront Parking Areas (T.O.J. Code Sec. 19-37)**-Parking along both sides of S.R.A1A, and any parking pod constructed and located on proximity to the town's oceanfront beaches are intended for the use, benefit and convenience of the town residents and members of the general public who wish to enjoy the recreational opportunities afforded by this amenity.
- **Penalty for Handicap Parking Violations (T.O.J. Code Sec. 19-42)**-Pursuant to the authority granted by F.S.S.316.008(4), a fine is hereby provided for the violation of the provisions of F.S.S.316.955 or for F.S.S.316.956, as adopted by reference by the town as local ordinances, in the sum of \$100.00.
- **Permitted Parking (T.O.J. Code Sec. 27-1291)**-No panel, pick-up, van or similar type of truck, boat, or recreational vehicle parked in a residential district may be occupied or used for living, sleeping or housekeeping purposes.

Beach Rules: Ordinance Highlights



- **Florida Litter Law (Section 403.413 F.S.)**-Unlawful for any person to dump litter in any manner or amount. Dumping litter not exceeding 15 pounds is punishable by a civil penalty of \$50.00.
- **Animal Waste (T.O.J. Code Sec. 5.10)**-Owner of every animal shall be responsible for the removal of any excreta deposited by his/her animal upon any public walks, or recreational areas.
- **Animals Creating Nuisance (T.O.J. Code Sec. 5-14)**-Any animal which habitually barks, whines, howls, or chases or runs after persons or vehicles, or which is otherwise offensive to the public so as to annoy, disturb, or endanger the comfort, peace or safety of the citizens.
- **Leash Law (T.O.J. Code Sec. 5-47)**-Under the restraint or control of a competent person, by means of a leash, or is sufficiently near its handler to be under his or her direct control, and obedient to that handler's commands.
- **Tags and Licenses (T.O.J. Code Sec. 5-49)**-All dogs and cats shall be required to wear a tag showing evidence of vaccination for rabies, securely fastened by a substantial device about the dog or cat's neck so as to be clearly visible at all times.
- **Unlawful to Lodge or Settle upon Public Lands (T.O.J. Code Sec. 11-7)**-Unlawful for any person to willfully lodge or settle upon public lands, including but not limited to, public streets, public parks, open spaces, recreational land, or real property owned by the town, county, or state, without consent.
- **Unauthorized Storage of Abandoned Property or Debris (T.O.J. Code Sec. 13-2)**-Unauthorized or illegal storage of abandoned property upon any public or private property within the town is declared to be a public nuisance.
- **Littering in Parks, Ocean Front (T.O.J. Code Sec. 14-73, 14-74)**-No person shall deposit or leave litter in any park, ocean front beach, ocean or other body of water within the town.
- **Glass Bottles and Containers Prohibited (T.O.J. Code Sec. 14-76)**-No person shall bring or possess any glass bottle or glass container into any park or ocean front beach recreation area in the town.
- **Public Beachfront Access (T.O.J. Code Sec. 14-97)**-Public access to the Town's Beachfront shall occur only at designated access points. Traversing a natural dune anywhere other than at designated access points shall be a violation.
- **Prohibition of Lodging in the Open (P.B.C. Code Section 18-2)**-Unlawful for any person at any time to occupy, lodge, or sleep in the open on private property or upon any public beach between the hours of 12:00am and 6:00am, without permission.