

189.570 Pedestrians. (Effective July 15, 2026)

- (1) Pedestrians shall obey the instruction of any official traffic control devices specifically applicable to them, unless otherwise directed by a police officer or other officially designated persons.
- (2) Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic and pedestrian control signals as provided in KRS 189.231 and 189.338.
- (3) At all other places, pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and shall be subject to the restrictions stated in this chapter.
- (4) When traffic control signals are not in place or in operation the operator 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 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.
- (5) 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 operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.
- (6)
 - (a) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at a 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.
 - (b) 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.
 - (c) Between adjacent intersections within the city limits of every city at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.
 - (d) Notwithstanding other provisions of this subsection or the provisions of any local ordinance, every operator of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing a child or an obviously confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway.
- (7) The operator of a vehicle shall not drive through or within a safety zone.
- (8) The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk.
- (9) A pedestrian shall not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.
- (10) A pedestrian shall not 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.
- (11) Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.
- (12) Where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

- (13) Where a sidewalk is not available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder, as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway.
- (14) Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available, any pedestrian walking on or along a highway shall walk as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway, and, if on a two-way roadway shall walk only on the left side of the roadway.
- (15) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, any pedestrian upon a roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.
- (16) A pedestrian who is under the influence of alcohol or any kind of drug to a degree which renders himself or herself a hazard shall not walk or be upon a highway except on a sidewalk.
- (17) A pedestrian shall not 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.
- (18) A pedestrian shall not 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.
- (19) A person shall not stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.
- (20) A person shall not stand on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting employment or business from the occupant of any vehicle.
- (21) A person shall not stand on a highway for the purpose of soliciting contributions unless such soliciting is designated by the presence of a traffic control device or warning signal or an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle as defined in KRS 189.910 making use of the flashing, rotating or oscillating red, blue, or yellow lights on such devices or vehicles.
- (22) A person shall not stand on or in proximity to a street or highway for the purpose of soliciting the watching or guarding of any vehicle while parked or about to be parked on a street or highway.
- (23) A person shall not occupy any portion of a state-maintained right-of-way in violation of KRS 189.572.
- (24) Upon the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle equipped with and operating one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating red or blue lights visible under normal conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of such vehicle, and the operator of which is giving audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle, or bell, every pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to the emergency vehicle.
- (25) This section shall not relieve the operator of an emergency vehicle from the duty to:
 - (a) Drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway; and
 - (b) Exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian.

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History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 32, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2026. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 46, sec. 8, effective June 17, 1978. -- Recodified 1942 Ky. Acts ch. 208, sec. 1, effective October 1, 1942, from Ky. Stat. secs. 2739g-69q to 2739g-69v.