

# What to Know about Crosswalks and Pedestrians



Failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk carries a fine plus two points on one's driver's license. It may also intimidate people from walking or cause injury or death.

## What Pennsylvania law says

3542. Right-of-way of pedestrians in crosswalks.

- (a) General rule.—When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- (b) Exercise of care by pedestrian.—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 as to constitute a hazard.



**1935 West Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018**  
**610.954.5744**

Bicycling Education-Bicyclist/Motorist Diplomacy  
Safe/Enjoyable Pedestrian Access-Trails-Transit-Environment-Community

## Drivers must yield to people crossing, but why don't they?

- Drivers don't understand yield-to-pedestrian laws
- Driving too fast to recognize pedestrians
- Tunnel vision – driver not scanning the road
- Other reasons

## What responsibilities do pedestrians have?

Pedestrians are most expected to be crossing at crosswalks, which are present at every intersection, whether painted or not. Pedestrians should not step out into a crosswalk when an approaching driver would have to apply hard braking.

🚶 **Drivers, please be alert and yield**

🚶 **Pedestrians, please use crosswalks and cross with the signal when there is one**

🚶 **Thank you everyone for exercising care**

## More...

- Municipalities should consider the benefits of proper lighting at crosswalks – streetlights that illuminate downward and do not blind drivers, as well as how to minimize light distraction from businesses, their signs, and parking lots.
- Curb bumpouts can improve prominence of pedestrians before they step into a crosswalk and can help them see beyond a row of parked cars.

For a video related to all information discussed here, search "Bethlehem Pedestrian Enforcement Program" on YouTube 😊

Updated 9-14-2020

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