



# Bicycling Laws, Rules and Tips For Monroe County



## Rules of the Road

- An important rule to remember when riding a bicycle is that basic traffic laws that apply to the automobile driver also apply to you. This includes stopping at red lights, stop signs, and before entering a roadway
- A bicyclist is also required by law to ride with the flow of traffic and as close to the right edge of the road as possible. Bicyclists must obey traffic rules; failure to do so is a traffic infraction. Adults could pay a maximum fine of \$50 and face up to 15 days in jail. Children could face Family Court action.
- It is illegal to wear earphones plugged into a radio, tape, CD or MP3 player while riding your bicycle. For safe riding, a bicyclist must have complete concentration on the sights and sounds around him/her. The penalties for violating this law are the same for the other traffic infractions.
- All bicycle passengers one through thirteen years of age are required to wear bicycle helmets and to ride in a separate, secure seat. This law also prohibits adults from carrying infants less than one year of age as bicycle passengers. If you break this law, you will face fines of up to \$50 for each violation.

## Helmet Selection

When choosing a helmet, you should buy one that meets the standards set by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Helmets meeting these standards have been tested and proven effective in protecting cyclists from head injuries due to collisions. Look for the label or tag noting the helmet meets CPSC standards.

## MOST BIKES THAT GET STOLEN WERE NOT LOCKED!

1. Always lock your bicycle securely and correctly when it is unattended, even if it is inside a building.
2. If your bicycle is at home, keep it in a locked garage, basement or room; not in the driveway or yard.
3. Lock your bicycle by placing a chain or cable through one wheel and the frame.
4. Use a high quality lock and case-hardened chain or cable to lock your bicycle. The lock should have at least a 9/32" shackle and the body and locking mechanism should be case-hardened. The lock should have a double locking mechanism with heel and toe locking. Record the serial number of your bicycle and keep it, along with the sales receipt and a photograph of it with your permanent records.
5. If possible, engrave the New York State drivers' identification number on your bicycle. This number is unique and can be easily located by the police.

**Mark the bicycle:** Marking your bicycle helps protect you and serves as a deterrent to would-be bicycle thieves. It also helps the police in identifying and returning a found or stolen bicycle to the owner.

**If your bicycle is stolen, call the police immediately. Tell them who you are, when and where the bicycle was stolen and give the description of the bicycle.**

Record your bicycle information below

Bicycle Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Purchase: \_\_\_\_\_

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to schedule a presentation for  
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## Required Safety Equipment



## Bicycle Safety Tips

Safe and skilled handling of your bicycle is the best defense against bicycle crashes, but some collisions are unavoidable. This is why wearing a helmet while bicycling makes sense.

In the case of a crash, your helmet will protect your head from trauma that could lead to serious injury or even death.

Here are some more safety tips to use when riding your bicycle:

- Look behind you and make proper hand signals before making turns.
- Drive on the far right side of the road or on the shoulder where legally permitted, but leave enough pavement on your right to steer around objects in the road.
- Ride single file.
- If a bicycle path is provided, use it.
- Always give pedestrians the right of way.
- Check and maintain your bicycle regularly because faulty equipment can result in a bicycle incident.
- Do not carry anything that interferes with your vision or control and do not carry riders unless an attached seat is available.
- Never hitch a ride on moving vehicles.
- Turn on your headlight and taillight if you ride at night.
- When riding after dark, wear retro-reflective material on your clothing.
- Watch for car doors opening and for cars pulling into traffic.
- For added safety, use a rear-view mirror.
- **Be alert** – do not assume that you have the right-of-way.
- Make eye contact with motorists.

## Hand Signals

