

**1220 RIGHT OF WAY: PEDESTRIAN'S DUTY: AT PEDESTRIAN CONTROL SIGNAL**

The Wisconsin statutes define “right of way” as the privilege of the immediate use of the roadway<sup>1</sup> and, further provide, that no pedestrian may start to cross the roadway (or other vehicular crossing) in the direction of a “Don’t Walk” signal, but a pedestrian who has partially completed crossing on the “Walk” signal may proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the “Don’t Walk” signal is showing.<sup>2</sup>

If you find that (pedestrian) was facing a “Don’t Walk” signal, then it was (pedestrian)’s duty before entering into the roadway to yield the right of way to an approaching vehicle on the roadway. If, however, you find that (pedestrian) started to cross the roadway on a “Walk” signal and had partially completed crossing when the signal turned to “Don’t Walk,” then (pedestrian) had the right to proceed to the (sidewalk) (safety island).

**NOTES**

1. Wis. Stat. § 340.01(51).
2. Wis. Stat. § 346.38(2).

See City of Hartford v. Godfrey, 92 Wis.2d 815, 286 N.W.2d 10 (Ct. App. 1979); Schoenauer v. Wendinger, 49 Wis.2d 415, 182 N.W.2d 441 (1971).

**COMMENT**

The instruction and comment were originally published in 1960. The comment was updated in 1989. Editorial changes were made in 1992 to address gender references in the instruction. The instruction was

revised in 1992 and 2008. This revision was approved by the Committee in September 2021.

The first paragraph refers to Wis. Stat. §§ 340.01(51) and 346.38(2). See City of Hartford v. Godfrey, 92 Wis.2d 815, 286 N.W.2d 10 (Ct. App. 1979); Schoenauer v. Wendinger, 49 Wis.2d 415, 182 N.W.2d 441 (1971).

“Roadway” is defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(54).

See Sub. (1) of § 346.38 giving the pedestrian the right of way if on a “walk” signal.

**Rights and duties of bicyclists.** Different right-of-way standards apply depending on whether a bicyclist was using the roadway as any other vehicle or as a pedestrian upon a sidewalk or within a crosswalk. See Chernetski v. American Family Mutual Insurance Co., 183 Wis.2d 68, 515 N.W.2d 283 (1994) and Estate of Zhu v. Hodgson, 2021 WI App 10, 395 Wis.2d 768, 954 N.W.2d 748.