

Bicycle Safety Tips

RIDE WITH TRAFFIC: One out of every five accidents is caused by wrong way riding. The law in all 50 states requires bicyclists to ride with the flow of traffic.

LOOK BEFORE YOU RIDE OUT OF A DRIVEWAY: Almost half of all bicycle deaths occur when young children ride out of a driveway without first stopping to be sure the road is clear of vehicles. Stop at the end of a driveway. Look both ways for traffic. Proceed when it its safe.



CHECK FOR TRAFFIC BEFORE YOU MAKE A TURN: Many children do not look for traffic before they turn left or right, or turn around. Always look back, signal, and check for traffic before you make any turns. Otherwise, you may be involved in an accident.

STOP SIGNS MEAN STOP: It is difficult for children to judge the speed and distance of oncoming traffic. Often adults ignore the law and run stop signs. Please set a good example for children to follow. **STOP** at all stop signs, and check for traffic before proceeding.

*For more information contact Public Relations at 863-773-0304
Visit our web site at www.hardeeso.com*

EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

*General information regarding the Sheriff's Office:
863-773-0304*



Bicycle Safety



Hardee County
Sheriff's
Office

Sheriff Arnold Lanier

FLORIDA STATE BICYCLE LAWS

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights to the roadways and they 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.

With few exceptions, there is only one road and it is up to bicyclists and motorists to treat each other with care and respect. Strict adherence to the law is the foundation for this respect.

Bicycle Regulations (Section 316.2065, F.S.)

- A bicycle must obey all traffic controls and signals.
- A bicycle must use a fixed regular seat for driving.
- No bicycle may be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped, except that adults may carry children in a backpack.
- At least one hand must be kept on the handlebars while riding.



Helmets (section 316.2065(3)(d,e), F.S.)

A bicycle rider or passenger who is under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet that is properly fitted and fastened securely upon the passenger's head by a strap. Parents and Guardians must not knowingly allow a child or minor to violate any provisions of this section.

Violation fines:

Equipment (Section 316.2065 (14), F.S.)

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.

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.

HEADSET NOT TO BE WORN [§316.304]

A cyclist may not wear a headset, headphone or listening device, other than a hearing aid, while riding.

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.

WHY WEAR A HELMET? IT'S THE LAW

There are many good reasons to wear a helmet besides the most important one, that of preventing head injuries:

Helmet Law: [§316.2065(3)(d,e)]

A bicycle rider or passenger under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet that:

-is properly fitted;
-is fastened securely;
-meets a nationally recognized standard.

Under federal law, bicycle helmets are required to meet the standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

VISIBILITY: It is easier to see someone wearing a bright colored headgear especially at dusk, in the rain or fog, or after dark. Putting retro-reflective trim tape on the helmet makes you even more visible.

EMERGENCY DATA: If you have a medical condition, record this information on a piece of tape and place it inside the brim of your helmet. Also tape coins inside for an emergency phone call.

CLIMATE PROTECTION: A helmet will help keep your head dry in the rain. If you do have to cycle in bad weather, this will help to make your riding much

