

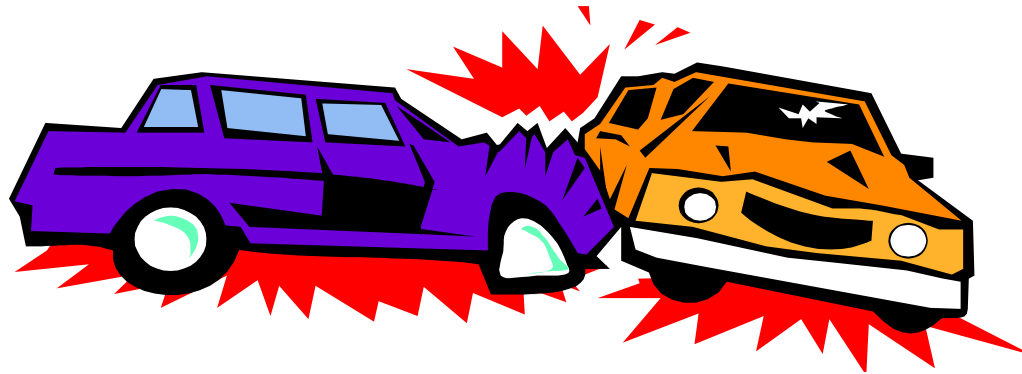
# Rules of the Road



# Accidents

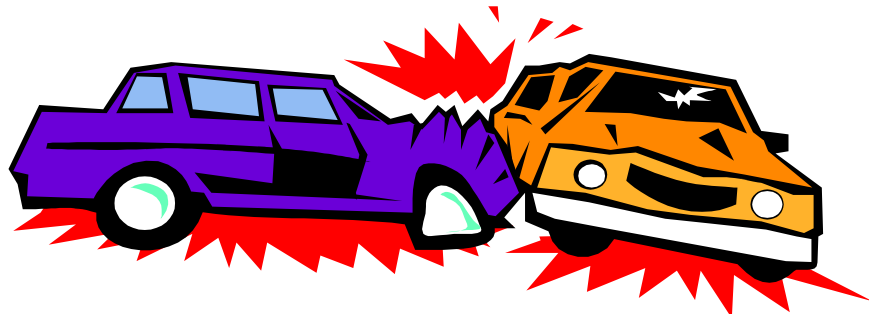
Two classifications of automobile accidents:

- *Reportable accidents*
- *Non-Reportable accidents*



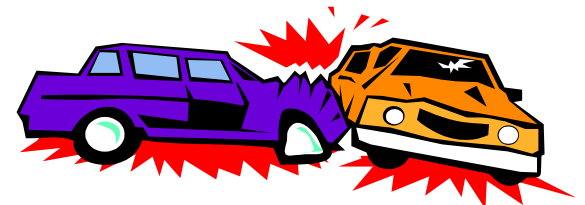
# Reportable accidents

- At least one vehicle involved is towed from the scene or an individual is injured.
- **The police must be contacted.** An accident report is filed and forwarded to the State.
- Failure to report a reportable accident is a citable offense.



# Non-Reportable accidents

- No injuries and all vehicles can be driven from the scene.
- The police do not have to be notified.
- All involved parties must exchange driver, owner, and insurance information. Owners of property damaged or unattended vehicles need to provide driver, owner and insurance information of the parties involved in any accident.
- Failure to provide information to involved parties in the accident is a citable offense.



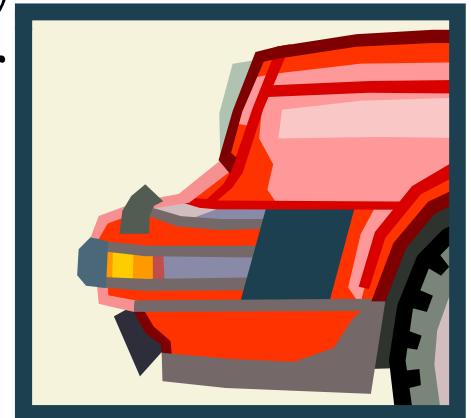
# *Audible Equipment Required*

- All vehicles must have a horn that works. The system shall not be modified to emit any sound other than the original.



# Bumpers

- Must be attached to the front/rear of all vehicles in which a bumper was attached from the manufacturer. Bumpers must meet specifications set forth by the State.
- If a vehicle comes equipped with a bumper from the manufacturer, you cannot remove it.
- Wooden bumpers are not permitted on any vehicle except for road service vehicles or wreckers.



## Depositing Waste On Highways

- Throwing waste materials from vehicles carries a \$300 fine. You can be directed to do roadside cleanup as community service.



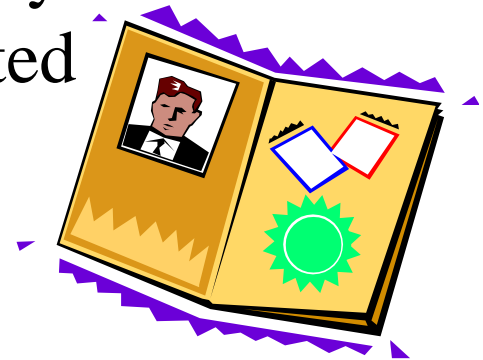
# Driver's License

- Your driver's license must be carried at all times while you are operating a motor vehicle. All license classes and restrictions must be adhered to.
- License holders have 15 days to notify PennDOT of any change of name or address.



# Driver's License

- Lost, misplaced, or stolen licenses can be replaced by contacting the PennDOT, a Notary Public or your local State Representative's Office.
- Operating a motor vehicle is a privilege - not a right. That privilege may be suspended for cause. "Occupational limited licenses" may be issued following a suspension under limited circumstances.



# Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Or Controlled Substance

- Driving while impaired by the consumption of alcohol, controlled substance, or any combination of the two is a criminal offense.



- Many prescription drugs are/or contain controlled substances. These may also impair your driving ability even though the drugs are legal.

# Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol Or Controlled Substance

- Refusing to take a breath, blood, or urine test as requested by a police officer will result in a 1-year suspension of driving privileges.
- It is also unlawful for drivers and passengers to consume alcoholic beverages, a controlled substance, or carry an open container of alcoholic beverage in a vehicle while on a street or highway.



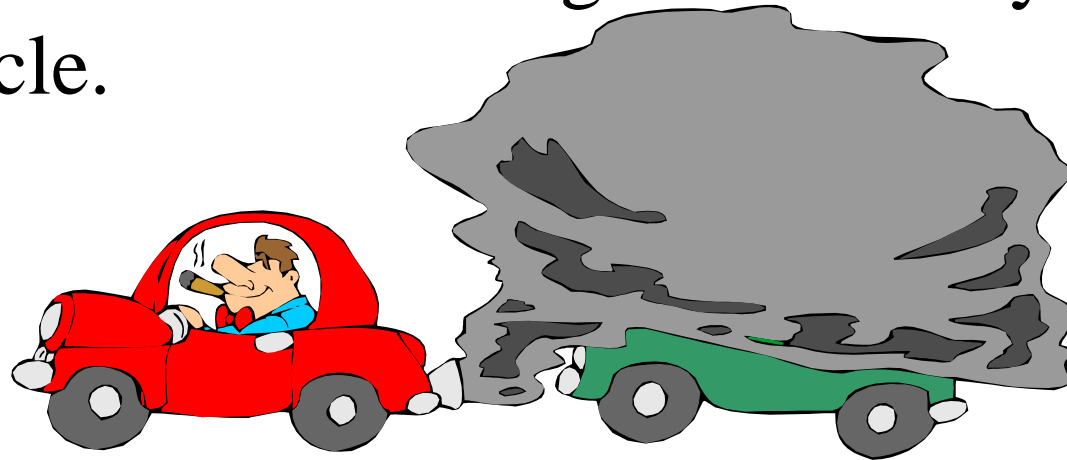
# Driving Without Lights To Avoid Identification

- It is unlawful to extinguish the lights of a motor vehicle to avoid detection or identification.



# Exhaust Systems

- All components of a vehicle exhaust system shall be in safe operating condition. All systems shall extend and discharge the exhaust to the outside edge of the body of the vehicle.



# Fire Extinguishers

- Fire extinguishers are required for school buses, vehicles towing a house trailer, motor homes, for vehicles with a truck-mounted camper and all trucks over class 2.



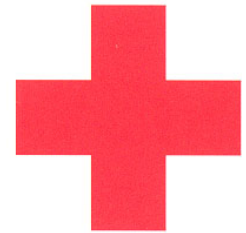
# Failure To Stop And Render Aid And/Or Provide Information

- The operator of any vehicle involved in an accident that results in injury or death to any person shall stop at or as close to the scene of the accident as possible.
- Remain at the scene and give any reasonable assistance to any injured party. Provide all information relative to operator's license, vehicle registration and insurance information to any investigating police officer and other involved parties.



# Failure To Stop And Render Aid And/Or Provide Information

- If the driver of a vehicle is physically unable to fulfill the obligations listed above, all passengers in the vehicle have the obligation to fulfill the requirements listed above.
- Failure to provide assistance and/or information may result in criminal charges.



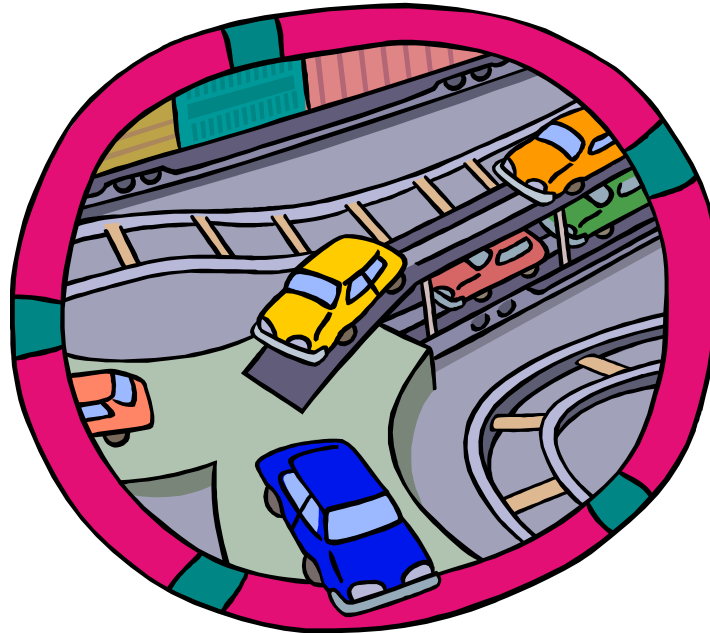
# Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude Police

- Any person who fails to stop for audible or visual signals given by a police officer may be charged with a criminal offense punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and a possible jail sentence.



# Following Too Closely

- No driver shall follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable for the posted speed as well as traffic and weather conditions.



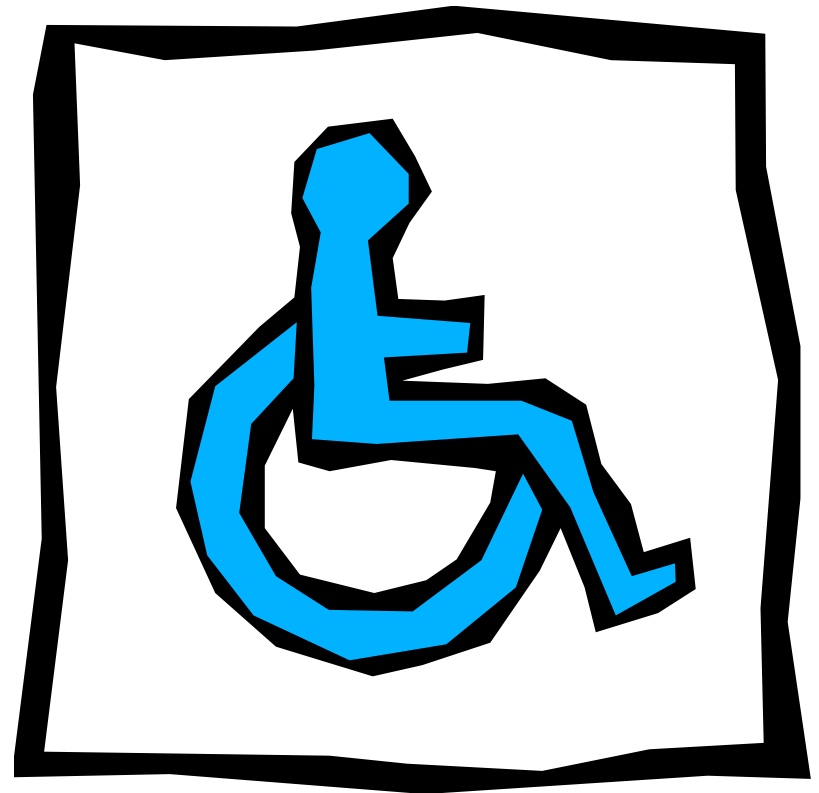
# Headphones

- No driver shall operate a vehicle while using any headphone, earphone, or similar device that would impair the ability of the driver to hear traffic sound.



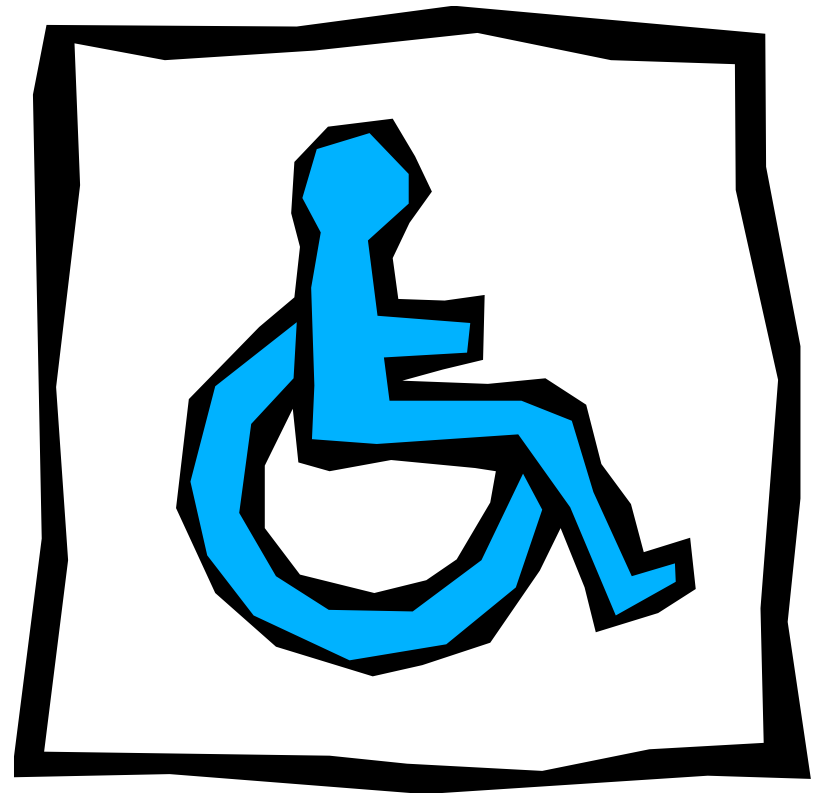
# Handicapped Parking

- Parking in a space signed for handicapped parking only without the proper plate or placard is prohibited. If you are transporting a handicapped person a placard is required to use handicapped parking spaces.



# Handicapped Parking

- Forms to apply for a handicap plate or placard can be obtained from PennDOT and must be signed by the attending physician.



# Improper Lane Change



- The operator of a motor vehicle shall use the appropriate turn signal before changing lanes.

# Inspection Of Vehicles

- A vehicle's inspection expires on the last day of the month indicated on the inspection sticker. Emission inspections are required for vehicles in some areas of the state and will be noted on the registration card.



# Inspection Of Vehicles

- The original inspection sticker on a broken windshield will be valid for 5 days along with a receipt for the installation of the new windshield. The vehicle may be returned to the location of the original inspection and a new sticker attached without the need of a new inspection.



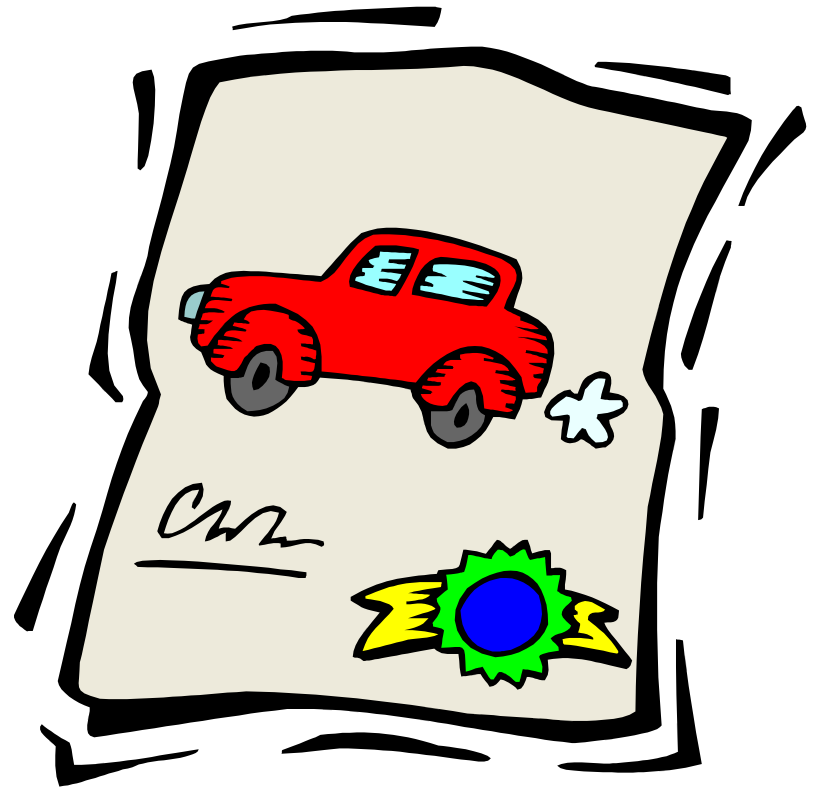
# Inspection Of Vehicles

- Displaying a counterfeit or stolen inspection sticker, or one issued to another vehicle may result in fines and/or criminal charges that could result in a jail sentence.

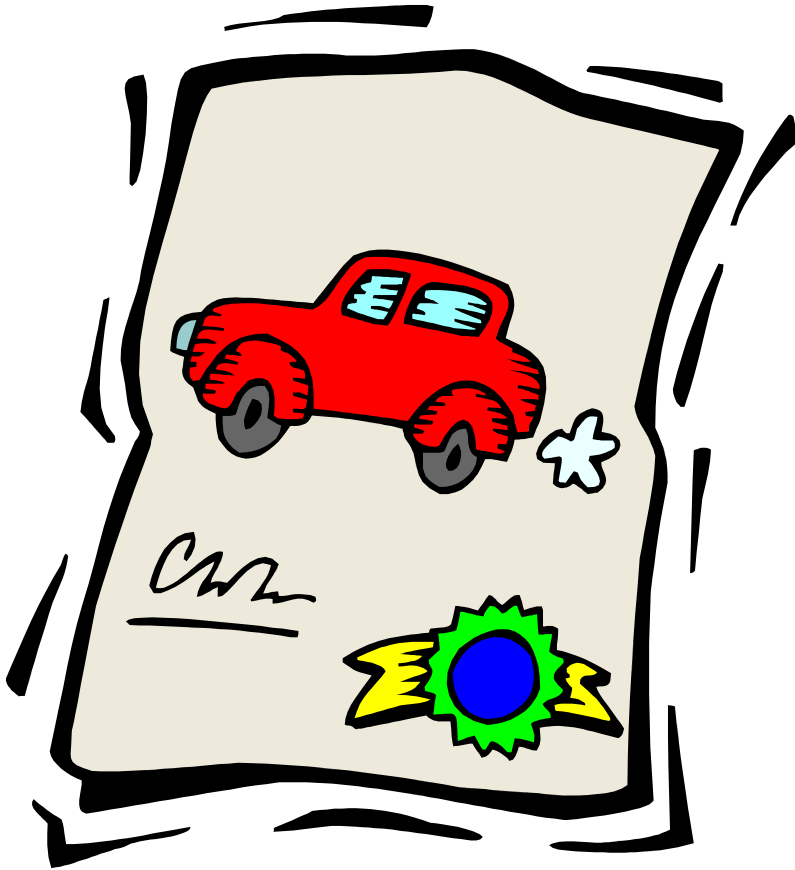


# Insurance Card

- An insurance card must be carried in the vehicle at all times and presented to a police officer upon demand.



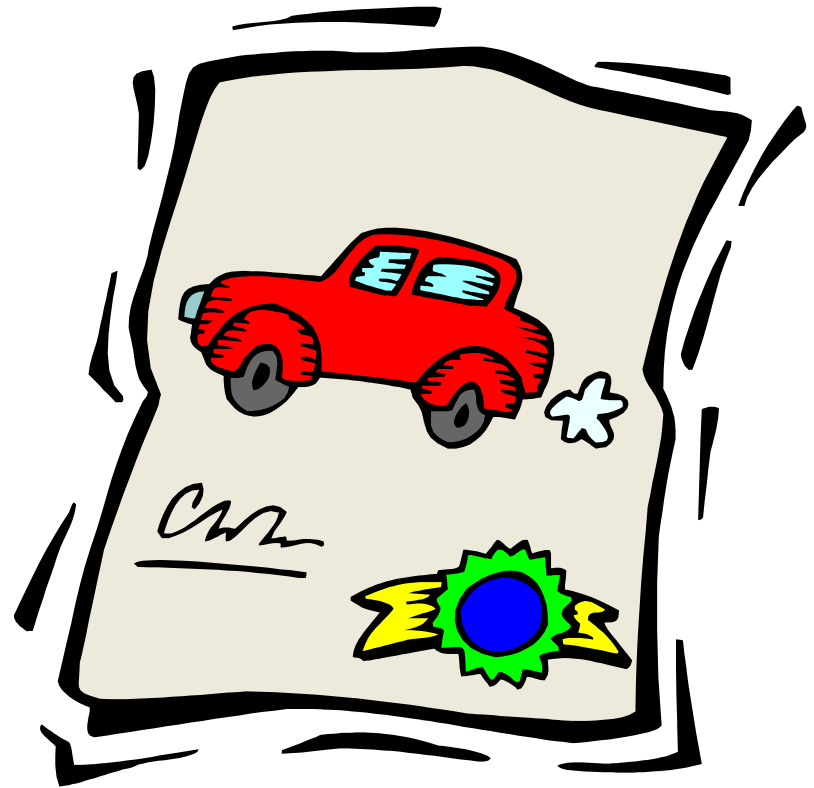
# Insurance Card



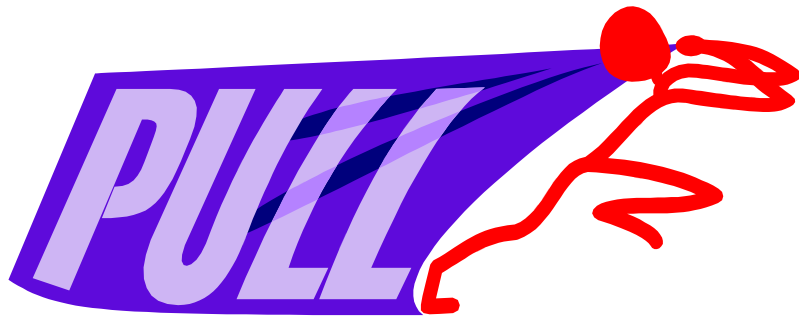
- If you are involved in an accident and are not insured, PennDOT might suspend your operating privileges and revoke vehicle registration.

# Insurance Card

- Vehicle registration may also be revoked if the insurance company cancels your insurance for any reason.



# Length Of Projecting Load



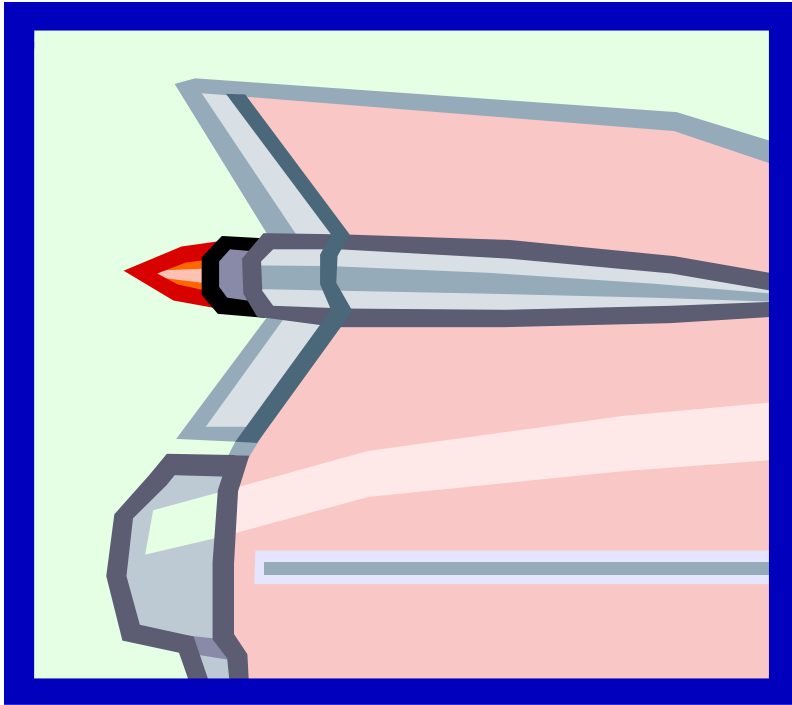
- Any vehicle carrying cargo that extends more than 4 feet beyond the rear of the vehicle must display a red flag or cloth no less than 12 inches square. The flag or cloth shall be displayed at the end of the load. During hours of darkness, a red light shall be used instead of the flag or cloth.

# Lighting Requirements

- All front and rear lighting must be in place and in working order. All lenses must be intact. Any light not operable is a citable offense.



# Lighting Requirements



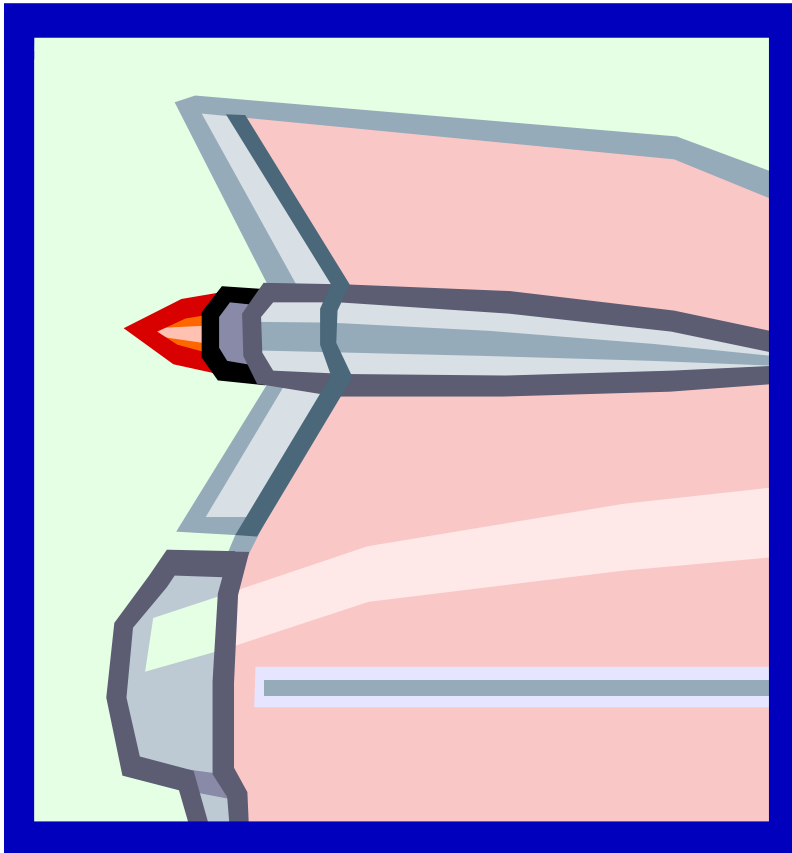
- Reverse lights are not to be lit while vehicle is in a forward motion.
- Headlights are not to be obstructed in any way or covered by any ornamental coverings, i.e. smoked glass.
- Ornamental lights, which serve no purpose, and are not original equipment, are prohibited.

# Lighting Requirements

- Fog lights shall operate off of a separate switch working in conjunction with the vehicle's low beams. Fog lights shall go out when the high beams are activated.



# Lighting Requirements



- Driving lights shall operate off of a separate switch working in conjunction with the high beams. Driving lights are to go out when low beams are in operation.

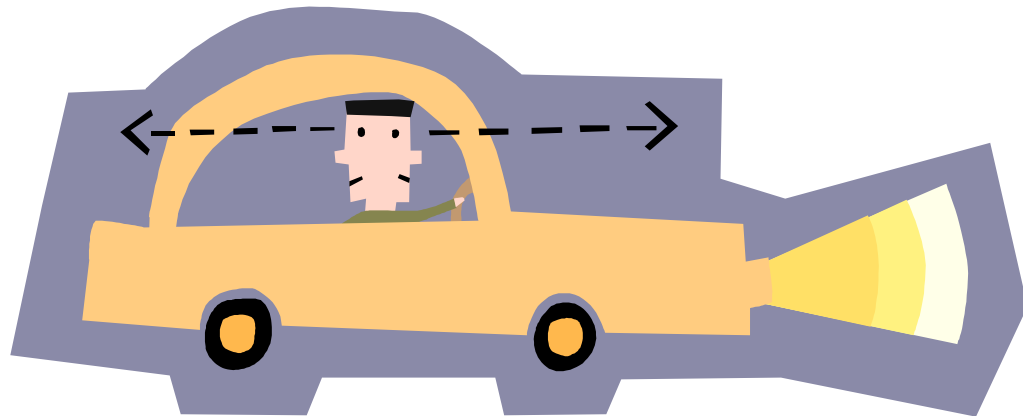
# Lighting Requirements

- Fog and driving lights must be mounted on the front of the vehicle not less than 20 inches from center to center and at a height of not less than 12 or more than 42 inches above a level surface.



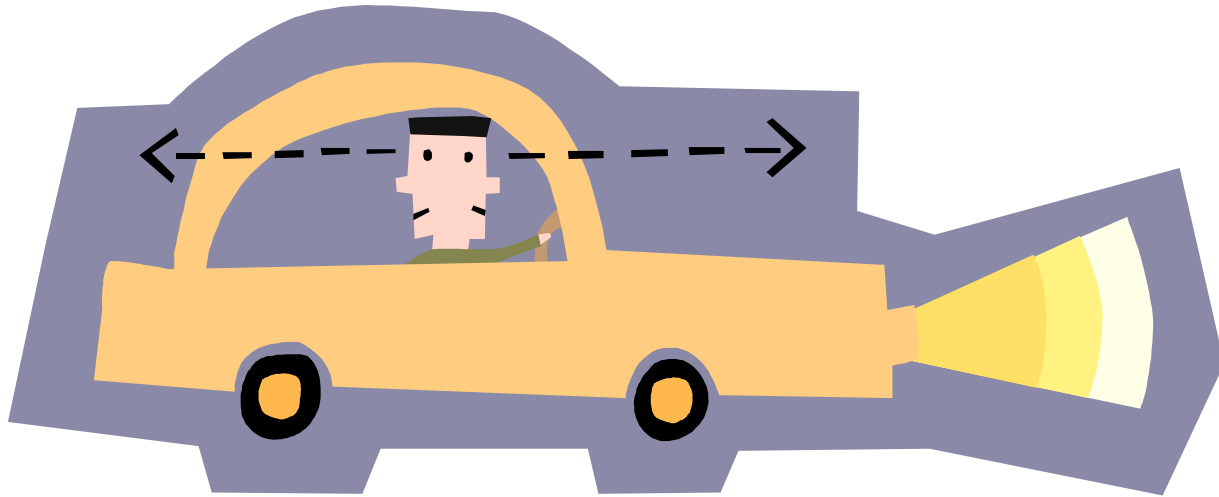
# Limitations On Backing

- An operator of a vehicle may not back up unless it may be done safely and without interfering with other traffic. Backing may only be done after yielding the right of way to any moving traffic and pedestrians.



# Limitations On Backing

- Backing is not permitted on any shoulder or roadway of any limited access highway.



# Obstructions

- An operator of a vehicle shall not have his view obstructed by snow and/or ice on the front, side, and rear windows.



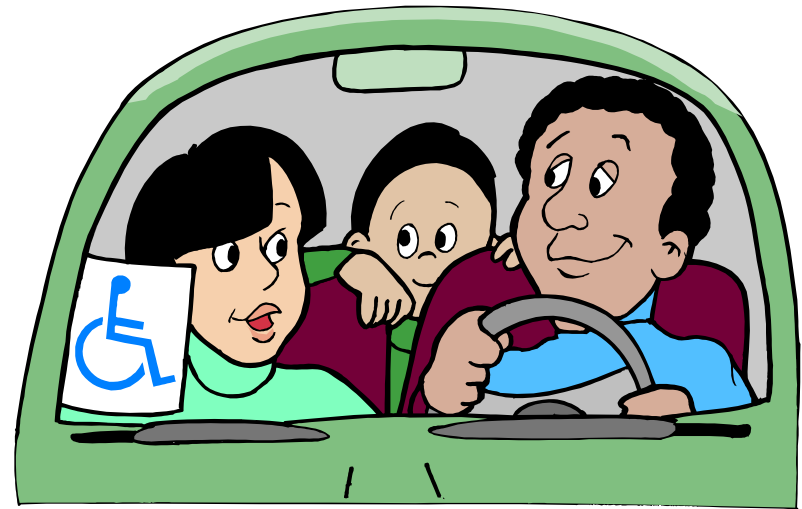
# Obstructions



- Sun screening or tinting of windshields and windows may only be done at the factory, but must conform to PennDOT regulation.

# Obstructions

- No decals, except those specified by the state, shall be displayed on the windshield or the front side windows. Decals on the rear side and back windows cannot cover more than 20% of the window.



# Obstructions



- Nothing is permitted to hang from the inside rear view mirror.
- Rear window louvers are permitted if the vehicle is equipped with side mirrors on both sides of the vehicle.

# Opening Vehicle Doors

- No person shall open a vehicle door unless it can be done safely and without interfering with traffic. A door should not be left open, on the side of moving traffic, for any time longer than to load or unload passengers.



# Passing A School Bus With Red Lights Activated

- The bus may only be passed if the bus is on a separated roadway such as a divided highway. The highway divider must be a physical barrier such as a medial strip or guardrail.



# Passing A School Bus With Red Lights Activated

- The penalty for a violation may include a fine, license points and a license suspension.



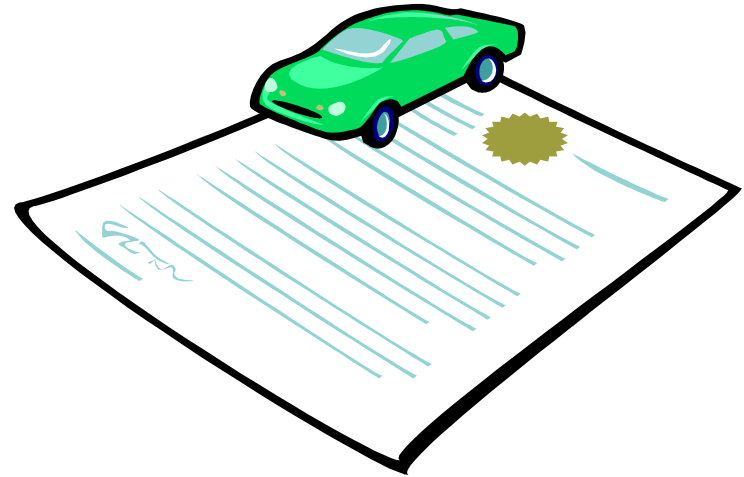
# Points



- Points are assigned for various violations. They are removed at a rate of 3 per year if no violations are incurred in that year. You may request a copy of your driving record from PennDOT.

# Registration

- The vehicle registration card must be carried with the vehicle at all times. The registered owner of the vehicle must sign the card. A change of name and/or address must be filed with PennDOT within 15 days of the occurrence.



# Registration



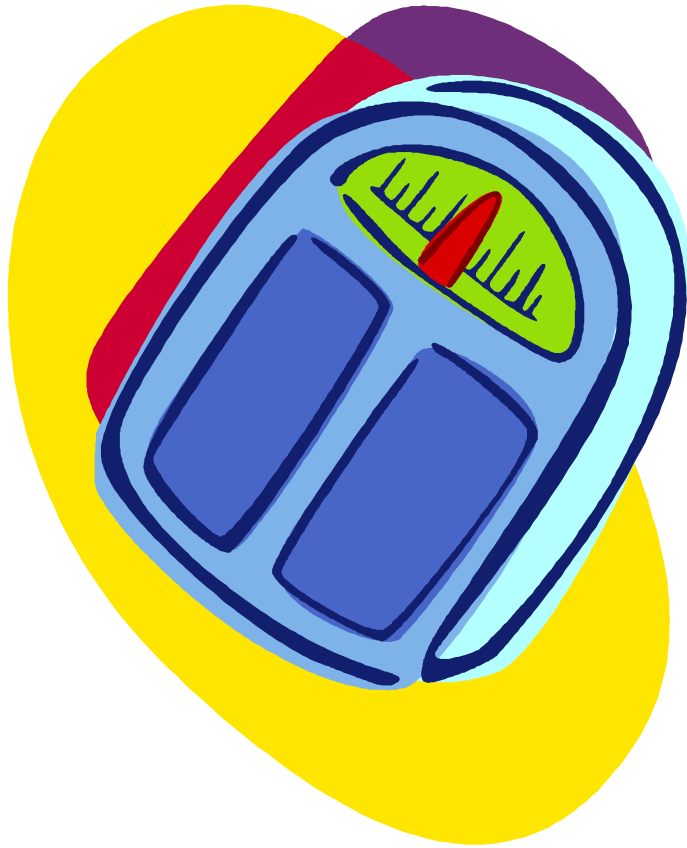
- The registration plate shall only be displayed on the vehicle for which it is issued. The plate cannot be obstructed in any manner, including by the use of tinted protective covers. The annual registration sticker must be affixed to the registration plate.

# Registration

- Lost or stolen registration plates must be reported to the police to be entered into the computer database. Lost or stolen registration plates or cards may be replaced by contacting PennDOT, a Notary Public, or your local state representative.



# Registered Gross Weights



- No truck shall exceed its registered gross weight. This includes all classes of trucks.

# Seat Belts And Child Restraint Systems

- Seat belt use is mandatory for all occupants of a motor vehicle in operation on any street, road, or highway in Pennsylvania



# Seat Belts And Child Restraint Systems



- All children from birth to age 4 must be secured in an approved car seat anywhere they are seated in the vehicle.

# Seat Belts And Child Restraint Systems

- Children from age 4 to age 8 must be secured in a seat belt system, with an appropriate and approved child booster seat, anywhere that they are seated in the vehicle.



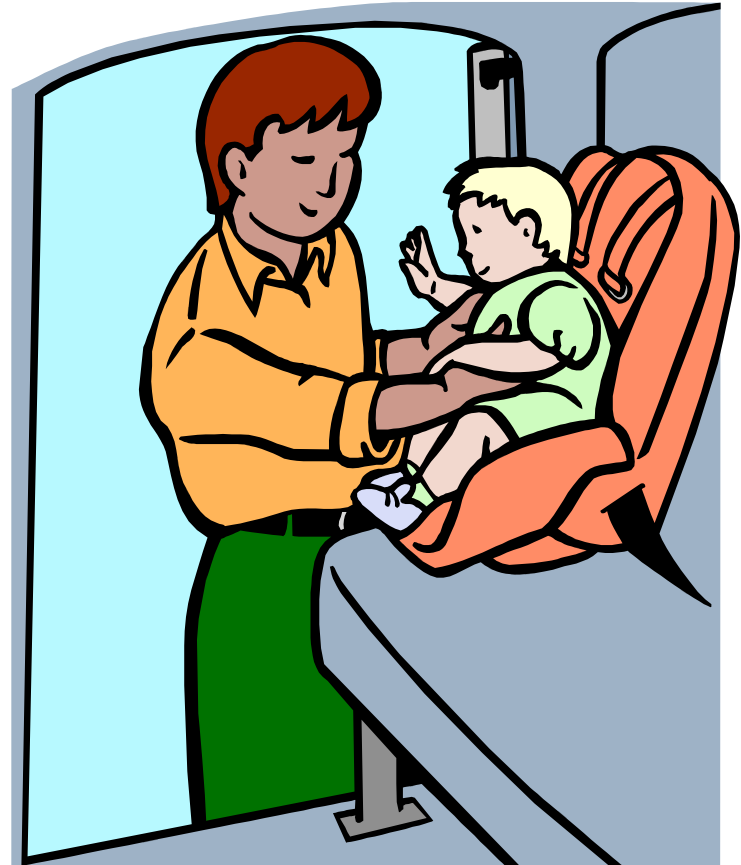
# Seat Belts And Child Restraint Systems



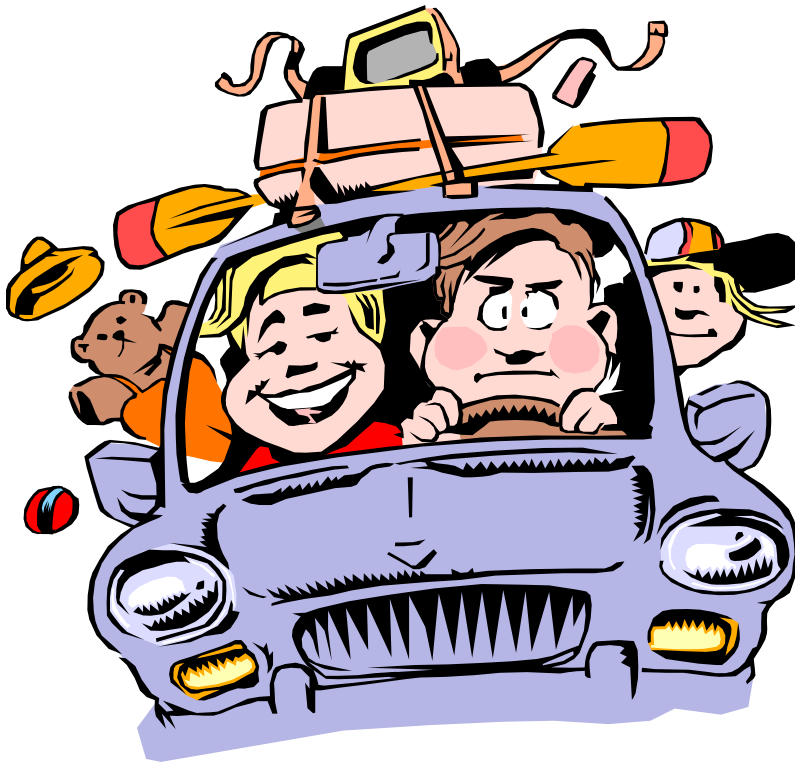
- All children from age 8 to age 18 must be secured in a seat belt system anywhere they are seated in the vehicle.

# Seat Belts And Child Restraint Systems

- All drivers are responsible for securing children in the appropriate restraint system.



# Securing Loads On Vehicles



- Anything carried in or on a vehicle must be properly secured so that it does not shift, fall off, or fall from the vehicle.

# Speeding

- The driver of a motor vehicle shall not drive at a speed above the posted speed limit. If not posted the legal speed limit is 35 MPH in urban areas and 50 MPH in rural areas.



# Speeding



- Approved speed timing devices may be used by approved police agencies. Radar can be used by the State Police. Other speed timing devices can be used by local police agencies as well as by the State Police.

# Speeding

- A certified speedometer may be used by State Police and local police agencies. A vehicle must be followed and timed for three tenths (.3) of a mile.



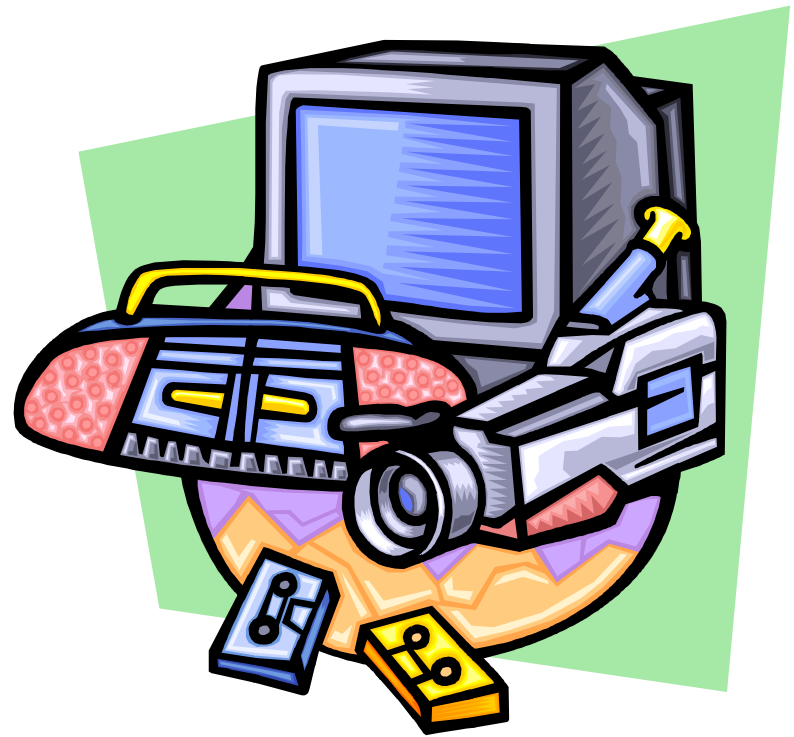
# Stop Signs



- Drivers approaching a stop sign must come to a complete stop at a point where the driver has a clear view of oncoming traffic. The driver must then yield the right of way to any oncoming traffic before proceeding.

# Television Equipment

- Any television or video equipment shall not be used forward of the back of the operator's seat or if visible in any other way by the operator.



# Tires



- All tires shall have sufficient tread and show no excessive wear. A depth of  $\frac{2}{32}$  inches between two adjacent treads should exist.
- Tires shall not extend outside fender wells. Fender flares may be used.

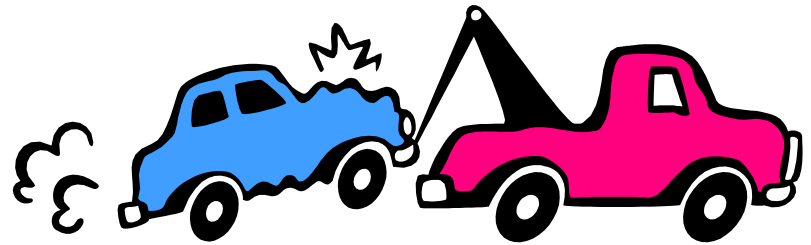
# Tires

- Studded tires/ice grips shall only be used between November 1 and April 15. Using studded tires at any other time may be cited. When traveling to another state, contact the State Police of that state about the legal use of studded tires.

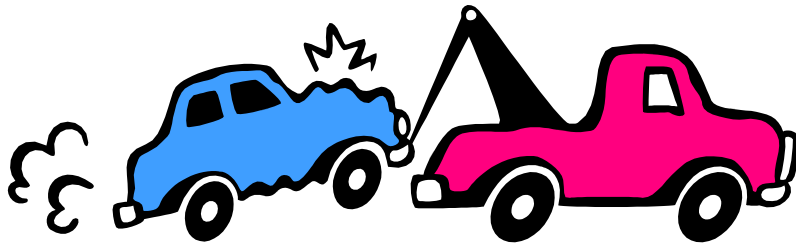


# Towing A Vehicle

- The connection between the vehicles shall be of sufficient strength to pull all of the weight towed.



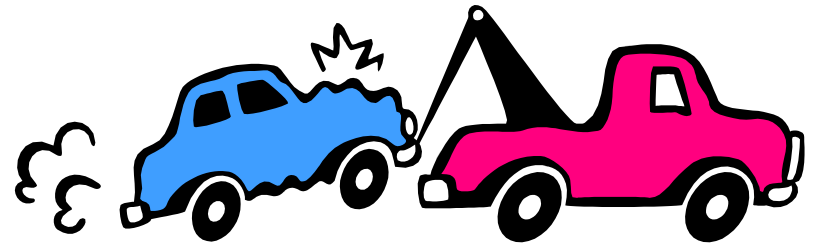
# Towing A Vehicle



- The distance between vehicles shall not exceed 15 feet. If the distance exceeds 5 feet, a red flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square shall be centered upon the connection between the two vehicles. In times of darkness, a red light shall replace the red flag or cloth.

# Towing A Vehicle

- If a ball and socket type hitch is used in towing, two safety chains, of equal length, must also be used. The chains should be crossed.



# Traffic Citation



- Traffic citations are issued for violations of the PA Motor Vehicle Code. Instructions are listed on the reverse of the copy you receive and will be explained to you by the police officer issuing the citation.

# Traffic Citation



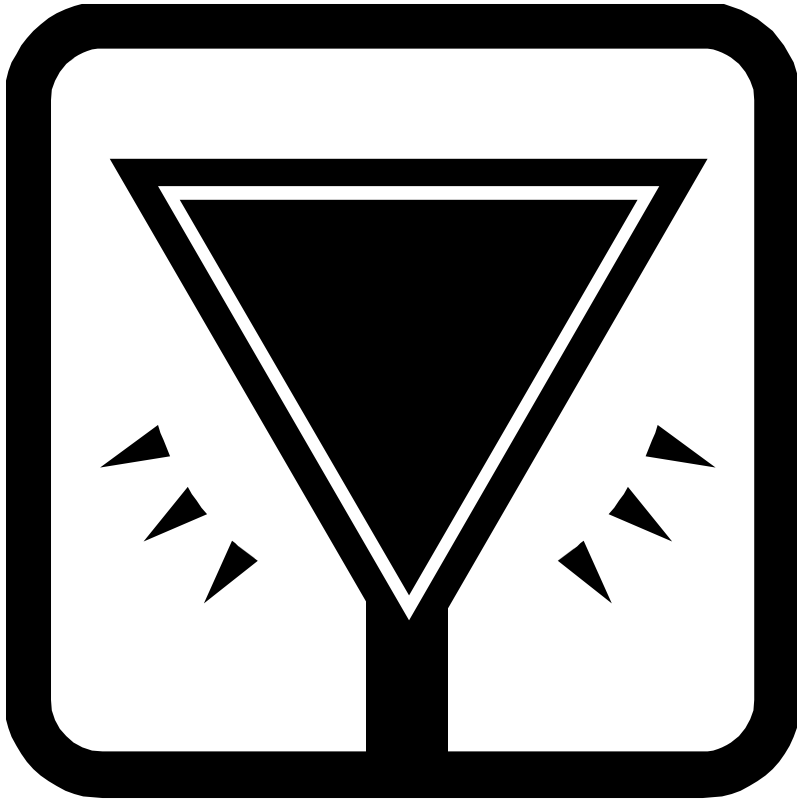
- A signature at the time of issuance is only an acknowledgement that you have received a copy of the citation and is not an admission of guilt. It also does not waive your right to any legal process.

# Unattended Motor Vehicle

- No person shall permit a vehicle to stand without placing the gearshift in a position to impede movement, stopping the engine, and removing the key from the ignition. On a hill, the front wheels shall be turned toward the curb and the brake set effectively.

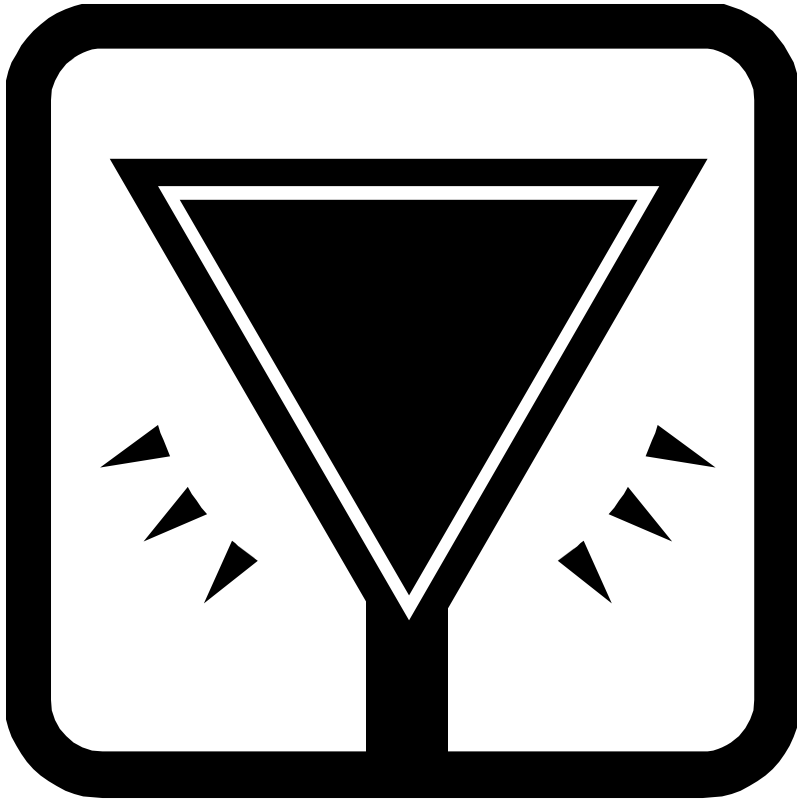


# Yield Signs



- An operator entering a roadway shall reduce his speed or stop; whichever is necessary to enter the roadway safely.

# Yield Signs



- After slowing down or stopping, the operator shall yield the right of way to any vehicle that constitutes a danger. Vehicles in through lanes do not have to change lanes so that you may enter the roadway.

# Reminder

- If an unmarked car signals you to pull over and you are not sure the person is a Police Officer, put your 4-way flashers on and drive slowly to the nearest public area or nearest police facility.



# Reminder

- At night put on your 4-way flashers and dome light and drive slowly to the nearest well lit and occupied public area. Unmarked police cars used for traffic stops are equipped with red and blue lights.



# Legitimate Complaints

- If you feel that you were legitimately treated unfairly by a MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICER (S), you have the right to file a personnel complaint with the Chief of Police or Superintendent of Police for that municipality.

# Legitimate Complaints

- Every Police Department in Montgomery County has a personnel complaint policy and process in place. If you are not satisfied with the response from the Chief of Police or Superintendent of Police, you may file a complaint with the elected officials who oversee the Police Department, such as the Mayor, Police Commissioner or Township Manager.

# Legitimate Complaints

- If you are not satisfied with that response, you have the right to file a complaint with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, and if you choose, you may pursue a civil action.

# Phone Numbers

- Montgomery County  
Public Defender's  
Office  
**610.278.3295**
- Federal Bureau Of  
Investigation  
**215.641.8910**
- PA Human Relations  
Commission  
**215.560.2496**
- United States  
Attorney's Office  
**215.861.8200**
- Local Police  
Department

*(Consult Blue Pages of  
the phone book)*

# Presented By

- **The Police Chiefs Association of Montgomery County**



# IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

- The Montgomery County District Attorney's Office
- The PA Human Relations Commission
- The Montgomery Co. Advisory Council of the PA Human Relations Commission
- Our Communities