

DRIVE SAFELY IN MICHIGAN

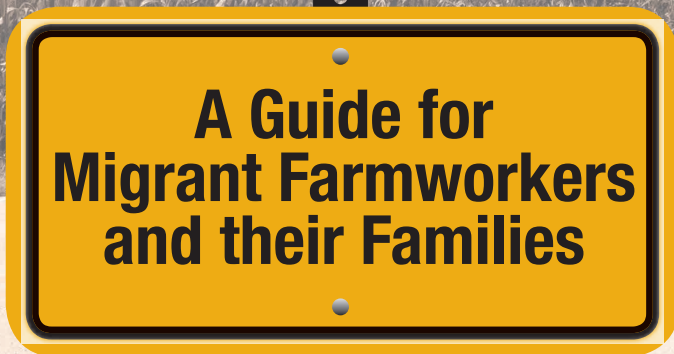


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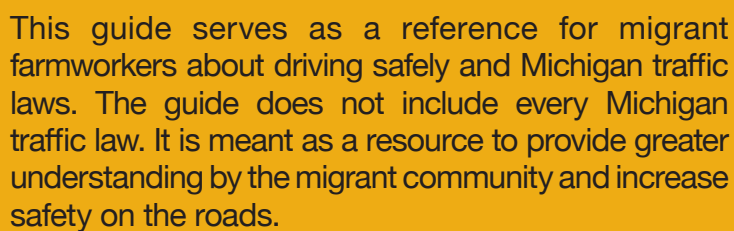
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This guide serves as a reference for migrant farmworkers about driving safely and Michigan traffic laws. The guide does not include every Michigan traffic law. It is meant as a resource to provide greater understanding by the migrant community and increase safety on the roads.



Safety of Passengers

Seat Belts



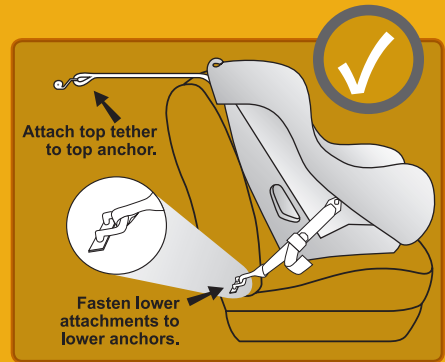
- Drivers, front seat passengers, and all passengers age 15 and younger must wear seat belts.
- Police may pull over a vehicle if the driver or passengers are not using seat belts.
- Seat belts keep you in the vehicle which reduces the risk of serious injury or death in a crash.
 - » Air bags are designed to work with seat belts.



Children in Vehicles



- Children are required to use a car seat or booster seat until at least age 8 or 4'9" (144.78 cm) tall.
 - » Children do not fit in seat belts and need car seats to protect them.
- A baby is not safe being held in someone's arms, even when nursing. The force of a crash will throw the baby and can result in serious injury or death.
 - » Babies should be in a rear-facing car seat until at least age 2 and then use a car seat with a harness until about age 5 after which a booster seat is needed.
- Car seats should not be used if:
 - » Involved in a crash.
 - » Past the expiration date.
 - » Purchased at garage sales or second-hand stores.
 - » Second-hand unless history is known.



Heatstroke



- Never leave anyone, especially a child, elderly person, or pet, alone in a vehicle.
 - » A hot vehicle can cause severe injury or death and could result in arrest or jail time for the driver.
- In 10 minutes, a vehicle's temperature can rise more than 20°F (11°C).
- Even in 60°F (15.5°C) weather, the temperature inside the vehicle can reach 110°F (43.3°C).

Bed of the Truck



- Even at low speeds riding in the bed of a truck, covered or uncovered, is dangerous.
 - » There's nothing to keep you safe in the event of a crash.
 - » A bump or curve can cause riders to be thrown from the truck bed.
- Persons under age 18 may not ride in the open bed of a truck at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour (24 kilometers per hour) on a public roadway.
 - » This does not apply to a vehicle controlled or operated by an employer or employee of a farm operation, construction business, or similar enterprise during the course of work activities.

A hand holding a smartphone in a car, with a blurred cityscape in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange banner containing the title text.

Things that Impair Driving Ability

Mobile Phone Use



- Do not read, manually type, or send a text message while driving.
 - » Drivers may make mobile phone calls and use GPS units affixed to the vehicle.
 - » Individual cities, townships, and counties may enact mobile phone bans in their jurisdiction. These will be posted when entering the area.
- The fine for a first offense of texting while driving is \$100.

Distracted Driving



- Drivers who become distracted and commit a traffic violation can receive a ticket.
- Distracted driving can include:
 - » Using a cell phone or texting.
 - » Eating and drinking.
 - » Talking to passengers.
 - » Grooming.
 - » Reading, including maps.
 - » Using a navigation system.
 - » Watching a video.
 - » Changing the radio station, CD, or MP3 player.

Minors Drinking



- It is illegal for persons under age 21 to have alcohol in their possession.
 - » Persons under age 21 may not purchase or consume alcohol.
- It is illegal to purchase or provide alcohol to persons under age 21.
 - » Adults are legally responsible if a person under age 21 consumes alcohol in their home.
- It is illegal for persons under age 21 to operate a vehicle while impaired by alcohol at any level.

Impaired Driving



- Do not operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any other intoxicating substance that impairs your ability to drive.
 - » A driver is considered impaired with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher.
 - » A driver can be arrested at any blood alcohol content level if police believe he/she is driving while impaired.
 - » Refusal to take a chemical test will result in a suspended license.
- Penalties are higher if convicted with a blood alcohol content of .17 or higher.
- A conviction for operating while intoxicated can result in:
 - » A suspended license.
 - » Installation of an ignition interlock device.
 - » Immobilization of the vehicle.
 - » Confiscation of license plates.
 - » Denial of automobile registration.
- Violators can also face points on a driver's license, heavy fines, jail time, and mandatory alcohol use programs. The penalties are more severe for drivers with previous convictions, even if they are from another state or country.
- When driving or riding in a vehicle, do not possess or transport alcohol in an open or uncapped container.



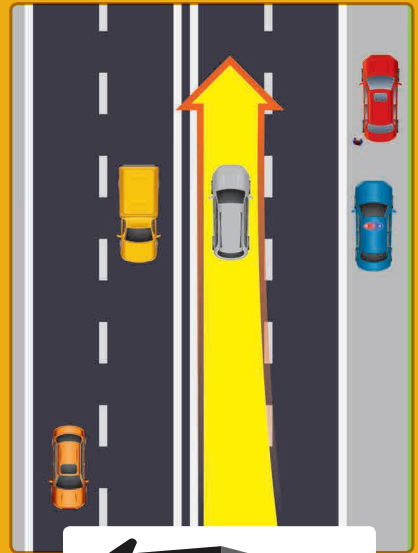
A child with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket and a backpack with a reflective yellow stripe, stands with their back to the camera on a paved surface. In the background, a white school bus is visible, featuring a large octagonal stop sign on its side. The bus has multiple windows and a dark stripe running along its length. The scene is captured in a muted, slightly desaturated color palette.

Rules of the Road

“Move Over” Law



- For stationary emergency vehicles with their flashing lights on:
 - » Move over one lane, or
 - » Slow down and pass with caution if a lane is not available.
- Failure to move over is four points on a driver's license and at least a \$150 fine.
- Types of emergency vehicles include:
 - » Police vehicles.
 - » Fire trucks.
 - » Ambulances or rescue vehicles.
 - » Tow trucks.
 - » Service or courtesy vehicles.



School Buses



- Treat school buses like traffic signals.
 - » **No lights (green)** = proceed safely.
 - » **Overhead flashing yellow** = prepare to stop.
 - » **Overhead flashing red** = stop.
- Stop at least 20 feet away.
 - » Vehicles in both lanes of travel must stop.
 - » Vehicles on the opposite side of a divided highway do not need to stop.
- Slow down in or near school and residential areas where children might be playing.
 - » Be on the lookout for safety patrols, crossing guards, bicycles, and playgrounds.
- Watch for children between parked vehicles and other objects.



Construction Zones



- Areas of roadway will be marked by signs and orange reflective cones and barrels.
 - » Drive with extra caution until passing the sign indicating end of construction zone.
- Adjust driving speed for posted limit and keep up with the flow of traffic.
 - » Lower speed to 45 miles per hour when workers are present.
- Penalties for speeding or crashing in a construction zone include:
 - » Double the fine.
 - » Larger number of points on a driver's license.
 - » Possible jail time.
- Be courteous; construction zones are necessary to improve roads and make them safe.



Lanes of Travel



- Vehicles should travel in the right-hand lane if the road has two or more lanes of travel in one direction.
 - » Exceptions are for passing another vehicle.

Driving Violations



- Driver's license holders are subject to all fees, fines, restrictions, laws, and enforcement of Michigan laws.
- Failure to pay fines and fees or show up in court may result in a suspended license as well as additional costs and penalties.
- The reason for the violation will always be listed on the ticket.

Traffic Violation Bond



- Nonresidents who receive a driving violation may be asked to pay the police a bond of up to \$100 in cash or surrender their driver's license.
 - » The money is for the court, not the police.
 - » Police will give you a receipt when you pay.
- Drivers must still pay the ticket or attend court.
 - » If attending court within 10 days, the bond will be applied toward the fines and court costs, and the remaining bond money will be returned.
 - » If payment is remitted by mail, the bond will be returned.
- Surrendered driver's licenses will be returned upon payment of the ticket or appearance in court.
 - » The ticket will be noted to indicate a surrendered driver's license.
 - » The ticket is not considered a driver's license. Tickets should be paid as soon as possible to avoid driving without a valid license.

Interaction with Police



- Michigan police are service oriented with the goal of keeping you safe. Traffic patrols are meant to reduce crashes, injuries, and deaths.
- When stopped, your safety and the safety of police are the primary concerns.
 - » Be courteous and cooperative.
 - » Stay in your vehicle unless police ask you to get out. Both the driver and passengers may be asked to step out.
 - » Keep your hands where the police can see them and avoid making any sudden moves.
 - » Ask before opening compartments or containers to get paperwork.
- Police have the right to ask to see a driver's license, proof of insurance, and proof of vehicle registration.
 - » Police will not generally ask for proof of legal status in the country.
- If you feel you were not responsible for the violation, you have the right to a court hearing.
- If you feel you were not treated fairly, you have the right to contact the police officer's supervisor.
 - » Contact legal services if you need information or assistance.





Administrative

Vehicle Registration and Insurance



- Vehicles must be legally registered in Michigan, another state, or country of residence.
- Vehicles operated in Michigan for more than 90 consecutive days must be registered in Michigan.
- Proof of valid vehicle insurance may be provided to police in paper or electronic form, such as a mobile phone.
 - » Police may request to have the electronic copy forwarded to them for verification.
- Vehicle owners must purchase Michigan no-fault insurance before registering their vehicle. Out-of-state insurance policies are not accepted.
 - » Coverage for vehicle damage and vehicle theft are not required but are recommended additions.

Titling and Registering a Vehicle

When purchasing a vehicle from an individual

Purchase vehicle

You do not need a license plate to drive your new vehicle directly home in Michigan within 3 days of purchase.

Get insurance for your new vehicle

Bring title and proof of insurance into a Secretary of State office to get registration, plate, and tabs for the new vehicle

It is best if you AND the seller go to a Secretary of State office to complete the title transfer.

When purchasing a vehicle from a dealership

The dealer will:

Handle all the paperwork for title, registration, and plate

Make sure you have purchased and present proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.

Collect the required fees and taxes

Provide you with copies of all documents

Michigan Driver's License



- Licensed drivers must be a Michigan resident and U.S. citizen or have permanent or temporary legal presence.
 - » Residency means you live in Michigan and have established you are legally present in the state.
- A valid driver's license or state identification card from another state or Canada can be used until residency is established.
- Drivers age 17 and younger are licensed under Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing program unless licensed in another state for more than one year.



Foreign Driver's License

- Nonresidents from certain countries may operate a vehicle in Michigan with a valid driver's license. Select countries are listed below. For a complete list visit Michigan.gov/SOS.
- Nonresidents with a valid driver's license from all other countries may operate a vehicle in Michigan as long as they:
 - » Are not paid or compensated for driving.
 - » Are legally present in the United States.
 - » Carry a driver's license with an English translation, an International Driving Permit, or corresponding document.

Country	Operate a Vehicle with Valid License	Operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle with Valid Commercial License
Brazil	Yes	Yes
Colombia	Yes	Yes
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes
El Salvador	Yes	Yes
Guatemala	Yes	No
Haiti	Yes	No
Honduras	Yes	Yes
Jamaica	Yes	No
Mexico	Yes	Yes
Nicaragua	Yes	Yes
Panama	Yes	Yes
Uruguay	Yes	Yes



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