



Riding Your Bicycle in the Roadway

A Guide for Cyclists

Code of Virginia

§46.2-800 of the Code of Virginia states that a Bicyclist on the roadway shall be subject to the same laws, rights, and responsibilities that are applicable to drivers of motor vehicles.

§46.2-849 Bicyclists shall give hand signals to indicate which way they plan on turning.

§46.2-905 Bicyclists shall ride as close as safely practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway, except under the following circumstances:

- A. When overtaking or passing another vehicle in the same direction
- B. When preparing for a left turn
- C. When reasonably necessary to avoid hazards in the roadway, such as, but not limited to, potholes, parked vehicles, animals, pedestrians, etc.
- D. When avoiding riding in a lane that must turn
- E. When riding on a one-way roadway, the bicyclist may ride on the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway.

Note: Bicyclists may ride no more than 2 abreast in the same lane, but shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and shall move into a single file formation as quickly as possible.

§46.2-906 No bicyclist can carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.

No bicyclist can carry more persons at one time than the number or persons for which the bicycle was designed or equipped.

Exception: Adult rider may carry a child less than six years of age if the child is securely attached to the bicycle in a seat or trailer designed for carrying children.

§46.2-1015 When riding at night time, the bicycle is required to be equipped with proper lighting that shall be illuminated at night.

§46.2-1078 It is unlawful for bicyclists or moped users to use earphones.

NOTE: Bicyclists are required to obey all regulatory signs and traffic signals while on the public roadway.

Violators may be released on a summons. However, custodial arrests are permitted if there is probable cause to believe that violators will: (1) not stop the act, or (2) not appear in court. Refusal to sign the summons is grounds, also, for a custodial arrest.