

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Many accidents are caused by confusion or disagreement over which driver has the right-of-way in different traffic situations. Refusing to give right-of-way to someone else multiplies the chances for an accident.

Let's understand what "right-of-way" really is.

When you have the "right-of-way," the privilege of using the road *should* be yours before it is someone else's.

All "right-of-way" really means is that by using some common sense, some general rules have been worked out or some instructions have been posted somewhere to help traffic flow well and move without accidents. But sometimes people don't obey the rules, sometimes they ignore the signs -- and you need to be prepared for that.

Some simple rules:

- At intersections, the car arriving first gets to go through first. If cars arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left should yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.
- A vehicle already in the roadway has the right-of-way; a vehicle entering the roadway yields to that vehicle. This means that when you are entering a road from another street, you yield to the traffic in the road you are entering.
- The same rule applies to entering traffic on a limited-access highway -- From the entrance ramp you yield to vehicles already on the highway, whether they are staying on it or trying to get over to the exit ramp. When you leave the highway to enter another roadway, you have the right-of-way to your exit ramp over vehicles entering the highway from the entrance ramp. But you must yield the right-of-way to vehicles that are on the other roadway already, while you are trying to enter it.

Remember, you don't take the right-of-way. Right-of-way is something you give or yield to someone else, or that they give or yield to you. No one ever has it until someone gives it.