



City of Chicago

Business Affairs and Consumer Protection

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Public Chauffeur Training Curriculum Components (updated Feb 17, 2021)

Pursuant to Municipal Code of Chicago Section 9-104-090 and RULE CH 1.01 of the Public Chauffeur Rules, the Commissioner of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) is requiring the following components be incorporated in all approved Public Chauffeur Training Curricula to ensure public chauffeurs are trained to be safe drivers and maintain compliance with the rules of the road prior to issuance of a public chauffeur license.

Required Public Chauffeur Training Curriculum Components:

- Dissemination and review of the “Tips for Motorists” published by the Chicago Department of Transportation and posted on BACP’s webpage at chicago.gov/bacp.
- Training covering dangerous driving behaviors and safe pick-up and drop-off practices, a quiz to ensure comprehension of these topics, and affirmation of the Vision Zero Pledge.

Dangerous Driving Behaviors: 72% of crashes resulting in death involve one or more of the top dangerous driving behaviors listed below:

1. Speeding

- Chicago’s citywide speed limit is 30 MPH unless otherwise posted.
- Always travel at a speed that is safe for conditions; in some dense parts of downtown, slower is safer.
- Speed increases crash RISK by increasing the time and distance needed for a driver to stop.
- Speed increases crash SEVERITY in the event of an impact, particularly for people walking.
- A person struck by a driver at 20 MPH has a 90% chance of survival. A person struck by a driver traveling 40 MPH only has a 20% chance of surviving the crash.

2. Failure to Give the Right of Way

- Illinois state law: Drivers MUST STOP for people walking in crosswalks. This is true for all crosswalks, whether marked or unmarked. It is true for crossings, whether they are controlled by stop signs/signals or uncontrolled, including mid-block crossings.
- Drivers MUST YIELD to bikes. Check side view mirrors for cyclists approaching before turning.

3. Using a Cell Phone While Driving

- Illinois state law: It is illegal to use a hand-held cell phone or electronic device when a vehicle is in motion, with the exception of vehicle routing (GPS).
- RULE CH5.08 of the Public Chauffeur Rules: Public Chauffeurs cannot, with a passenger in the taxicab or public passenger vehicle, use a mobile telephone, computer, notepad, or any other electronic device, whether or not hands-free, while operating such taxicab or public passenger vehicle; unless, the use of the hands-free electronic device is essential to servicing passengers (i.e. GPS navigational technology or dispatching equipment) and the use of the hands-free device does not result in distracted driving.
- Use of a cell phone or electronic device even via Bluetooth hands-free technology is not permissible for public chauffeurs operating taxicabs or liveries.

4. Driving Under the Influence

- There is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for public chauffeurs driving under the influence of an intoxicant.

5. Disobeying Traffic Signals

- Drivers must follow all traffic signals, including red lights and stop signs.

6. Safe Pick-Up and Drop-Off

- Passengers and drivers cannot open car doors into traffic.
- Drivers can NEVER stop, stand, or park in a bike lane. Passengers cannot be dropped off in a bike lane.
- DOORING is opening a car door into the path of an oncoming cyclist. It is punishable by fines up to \$1,000.
- Pull all the way over to the curb when picking up or dropping off a passenger. DO NOT BLOCK travel lane.

7. Vision Zero Pledge

An affirmative commitment by each public chauffeur license trainee pledging the following:

I pledge to:

- ✓ *Acknowledge every time I drive that I am responsible for my own safety and the safety of others.*
- ✓ *Obey Chicago's 30 MPH speed limit, because slower is safer.*
- ✓ *Keep my hands on the wheel and my eyes on the road, not on my phone.*
- ✓ *Be aware of people walking and riding their bikes.*
- ✓ *Stop for people in crosswalks.*
- ✓ *Never drink and drive.*
- ✓ *Stop at red lights and stop signs.*
- ✓ *Obey the rules of the road when walking and biking.*