

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

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DISHONOR RIGHT OF WAY COACHING TOPIC

The Issue

When you dishonor the right of way of others, you have failed to “yield” the right of way to someone else. This failure can occur as you attempt to merge into other traffic lanes, at intersections, in parking lots, while backing and at other times during the operation of your vehicle.

Our Concern

Most state rules of the road booklets will indicate that you should yield the right of way to others. It is interesting that under the law, no one has the right of way. It must be yielded by someone else. In other words, you must choose to yield the right of way to others. When you approach a yield sign such as the one shown above, it is strongly suggested that you yield (or choose to yield) the right of way to the vehicles in the through travel lane(s), usually to your left or right.

Why would they suggest that you yield? This is done for your safety and to set some “rules of the road” for us to follow. Rules set the procedures that we should be operating under when we are in a certain situation. We have rules of etiquette. We also have rules of behavior, rules of order, and other various rules that our society has given us to live under.

Right of way, is a rule of honor. The suggested rule is for you to honor the other person and give them (or yield them) the right of way. You “dishonor” the person when you fail to yield the right of way when the rules indicate it would be appropriate for you to do so. When you fail to yield to others, you create or become a safety hazard. You could be rear-ended or sideswiped by the other vehicle; you could collide with another vehicle; you could end up forcing others off the roadway or into another lane of traffic potentially causing a collision. In other words, you create a very serious problem.

A Solution

A good rule to follow is when in doubt, give the right of way to the other person. As a professional driver, set the example that others expect you to set. Yield to others. Let others be first and you be last. This does not indicate weakness on your part, but indicates strength and control. You have chosen to “yield the right of way to others.”

BE A GOOD EXAMPLE!