

DRIVERS MUST STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS IN ILLINOIS (HB 43)

As of 2010, Illinois drivers must come to a complete stop for pedestrians in all crosswalks. Previous law required them to yield and stop when necessary.

Definition of “crosswalk”

There are several kinds of crosswalks.

- **Signalized:** These are crosswalks at stop signs and traffic signals.
- **Unsignalized:** These are crosswalks that don’t have a stop sign or traffic signal. They are also referred to as “mid-block crosswalks.”
- **Marked:** These are the crosswalks you can see. Painted lines on the road designate their location.
- **Unmarked:** Not all crosswalks are marked with paint. The law is filled with jargon (see below) but simply put, a crosswalk is present whenever a sidewalk leads into the street.

Illinois drivers must come to a complete stop for pedestrians in any of those crosswalks: marked, unmarked, signalized or unsignalized.

Legal Definition of a Crosswalk

Illinois defines crosswalks as “That part of a roadway at an intersection included **within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides** of the highway measured from the curbs, and in the absence of a sidewalk on one side of the highway, that part of the highway included **within the extension of the lateral line of the existing sidewalk** to the side of the highway without the sidewalk” (625 ILCS 5/1-113 (a))

Violation penalties

Penalties for violating this law vary by county and may include fines and court costs. Cook County penalties start at \$50 and may include court costs.

Take action

You can take action if a car does not come to a complete stop while you are in a crosswalk. Call 911 and report them. If possible, record the license plate number and include that along with your location in your police report.

