

Ask the Chief

Dear Chief: When can a vehicle legally pass on the right?

Dear Citizen: This is an excellent question and one we get quite often. Passing on the right is addressed by Colorado Revised Statute 42-4-1004 (when overtaking on the right is permitted). The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle **ONLY** under the following conditions:

1. When the vehicle being overtaken is making or giving indication of making a left turn.
2. Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement not occupied by parked vehicles and marked by two or more lanes of moving vehicles in each direction.
3. Upon a one-way street or upon any roadway on which traffic is restricted to one direction of movement where the roadway is free from obstructions and marked for two or more lanes of moving vehicles.

The driver of a motor vehicle upon a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes, when overtaking a bicyclist proceeding in the same direction and riding on the left side of the road, shall allow the bicyclist at least a 3 foot separation between the left side of the driver's vehicle, including mirrors or other projections, and the right side of the bicyclist at all times.

The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. In no event such movement be made by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.

Regardless of whether the roads, conditions, and traffic flow allow for legal passing on the right we would ask that you think twice before doing it by considering whether or not that few extra seconds you lose by slowing or stopping is worth the risk.

Drive Safely Alamosa!

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police