

White Cane Safety

Lions Information Sheet



insert your club name or
contact person

insert contact person or
club name

- **Massachusetts State’s White Cane Law** requires drivers to yield to persons using a white cane or a guide dog.
 - Pedestrians with a visual impairment need to concentrate when crossing. **Do not honk or shout that it is safe to cross.**
 - Give pedestrians room to cross. Stop **before** the crosswalk, not in it.
 - The **right on red** law requires a **FULL STOP**. **After you stop, make certain that your path is clear of pedestrians before you turn.**
 - **Ask first**, if you think someone using a white cane needs assistance.
 - If assistance is accepted, **offer your elbow to the individual.**
 - When giving directions, be clear using concrete terms (right or left **from their perspective**).
- Avoid pointing and general terms such as “over there”.

Pedestrians, including those who are visually impaired, cross streets assuming, that Drivers will obey the rules of the road.

Please drive safely

October is White Cane MONTH. There are over 30,000 Massachusetts residents who are legally blind.

Legal Blindness does not mean total blindness. Most persons who are legally blind have some usable vision. Some may be able to still read (regular or large print), recognized faces and colors (or not), depending on the type of vision impairment and degree of vision loss. Vision may also change throughout the day depending on the time of day, health of person, lighting of area, etc.

White Cane Awareness Month is to promote better understanding of what a white cane means & how pedestrians and motorists can assist long cane users and dog guide users at street crossings.

The white cane is a symbol of independence allowing a legally blind person to travel independently when using it.

International White Cane Day is October 15. All states and many other countries have White Cane laws, which allow the legally blind person the right of way at street crossings.

What is the significance of a White Cane ?



Also under Massachusetts State Law- a person who is legally blind, using a guide dog, has the right to enter all public and private facilities to which the public is invited or permitted. This includes all modes of housing, transportation, employment, places where food is sold, theaters, resorts, or businesses to which the public is normally or customarily invited or permitted. No additional charge may be imposed for admittance of a dog guide.