This Brochure is to help you with questions about Wisconsin laws and how they relate to driving on our roads. The Waushara County Sheriff's Department wants to make sure you enjoy your time in our county. This brochure will cover the most common laws we feel need to be discussed. There are many other laws that cover you and your duty to travel on the roads of Wisconsin. We are more than happy to provide what ever assistance we can with other questions you may have.

One of the most important laws we want to make you aware of is the need to have a valid driver's license. Wisconsin Statute 343.05(3)(a) requires a person to have a valid driver's license issued by the State of Wisconsin. A person may drive in Wisconsin with a valid driver's license from another state or an International Permit. Wisconsin Statute 343.18(1) requires all drivers to carry their driver's license with them. This law also says that the driver must show the license to a police officer when the officer asks for it. There is a very good chance that you could be issued a citation if you are stopped and can not produce a driver's license or other identification that will help the officer to determine if you have a valid driver's license. The officer can only check the records of the states in the United States. We can not check on International Permits or Driver's Licenses from Mexico. If you claim you have a license from Mexico but do not have it with you, you will be issued a citation. The fine for not having a driver's license will cost you over $180.00.

Another law that applies to everybody traveling on Wisconsin roads is the seatbelt requirement. Under Wisconsin Statute 347.48(2m) every person riding in a vehicle is required to wear a seatbelt. A violation of this law will cost $10.00. A child under 4 years of age is required to be in a child safety seat. A child from the age of 4 to the age of 8 must be in a child seat or in the seat and wearing a seatbelt. The driver of the vehicle is responsible for the children to be properly secured in a seat. The driver could be issued a citation that costs over $150.00 dollars.

A very important law is enforced in Wisconsin. This is the law that says it is illegal to drink alcohol and drive. A person who has been drinking and driving can be stopped by a police officer. The driver is required to provide the police officer with a sample of their blood or breath for test purposes. The driver will be required to pay a fine over $780.00 before they can be released from jail. There is also the possibility of spending time in jail to serve a sentence for this violation.

Wisconsin Statute 346.935 says it is against the law to have open bottles or cans of liquor in a vehicle that is on the road. The driver who has an open container can be issued a citation that costs over $240.00 dollars. Any passenger in the vehicle with an open container can be issued a citation that will cost that person over $180.00. Every vehicle that you drive on a Wisconsin road must have proper registration for that vehicle. The vehicle must have registration from Wisconsin or another state.
Speeding is very big problem in Wisconsin. Every road has a speed limit. On country roads the speed limit is 55 mph. If you do not see any signs and the road is wide open, you can go 55 mph. But as you get into cities and villages the speed limit will be lower. In these areas the speed limit will be posted on white signs and will show the numbers of the speed limit. The Interstate system in Wisconsin does have a speed limit of 65 mph but there are signs showing this higher limit.

Some areas will have a yellow sign with a speed limit on it. This yellow sign is a warning and the speed limit is a suggested safe speed to go around a curve or over a hill.

You may also see orange signs and these signs will be close to areas that workers are on the road. These orange signs will have a speed limit along with other warnings like flag man and lane closings. If you see orange signs, please slow down and watch for people and construction equipment in the road. Fines for speeding can start at $156.00 and go up over $500.00.

You can get help with questions and getting a driver's license and vehicle registration from the State of Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles. These State offices are located all around the state. The closest full time offices are in Oshkosh and Stevens Point. The state does come to Wautoma every Wednesday to provide assistance. They have their office at the Wautoma City Hall located on Main Street.

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