

NEWSLETTER#23

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DRIVING AND THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. YOU MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE HANDBOOK FROM WHICH THIS INFORMATION WAS TAKEN BY WRITING TO:

DEPT. OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0565

YOU NEED A FLORIDA DRIVER LICENSE:

1. IF YOU LIVE IN FLORIDA AND WANT TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE ON PUBLIC STREETS AND HIGHWAYS.
2. IF YOU MOVE TO FLORIDA AND HAVE A VALID LICENSE FROM ANOTHER STATE, YOU MUST GET A FLORIDA LICENSE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF BECOMING A RESIDENT.
YOU ARE CONSIDERED A RESIDENT OF FLORIDA IF YOU:
 - *ENROLL YOUR CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOL, OR
 - *REGISTER TO VOTE, OR
 - *FILE FOR A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, OR
 - *ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT, OR
 - *RESIDE IN FLORIDA FOR MORE THAN SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.

YOU DON'T NEED A FLORIDA DRIVER LICENSE IF YOU HAVE A VALID LICENSE FROM ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY:

1. IF YOU ARE A NON-RESIDENT WHO IS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD.
2. ANY PERSON EMPLOYED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DRIVING A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MOTOR VEHICLE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
3. ANY NON-RESIDENT WORKING FOR A FIRM ON A CONTRACT FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS EXEMPT FROM NEEDING A LICENSE FOR UP TO 60 DAYS.
4. ANY NON-RESIDENT ATTENDING COLLEGE IN FLORIDA.
5. ANY NON-RESIDENT WHO LIVES IN ANOTHER STATE AND TRAVELS REGULARLY BETWEEN THEIR HOME AND WORK IN FLORIDA.
6. A NON-RESIDENT MIGRANT EMPLOYED FARM WORKER EVEN THOUGH YOU PLACE CHILDREN IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PROVIDING YOU HAVE A VALID LICENSE FROM YOUR HOME STATE.
7. MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES STATIONED IN FLORIDA AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, WITH THESE EXCEPTIONS:
 - *SERVICE MEMBERS OR SPOUSE CLAIMS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (IN THIS CASE ALL DRIVERS IN THE FAMILY MUST OBTAIN FLORIDA LICENSES).
 - *SERVICE MEMBER BECOMES EMPLOYED (ALL DRIVERS IN FAMILY MUST OBTAIN FLORIDA LICENSES).
 - *SPOUSE BECOMES EMPLOYED (SPOUSE AND ALL CHILDREN WHO DRIVE MUST OBTAIN FLORIDA LICENSES).
 - *CHILD BECOMES EMPLOYED (ONLY EMPLOYED CHILD WHO DRIVES MUST OBTAIN FLORIDA LICENSE).

FLORIDA LAW REQUIRES TWO FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION, PROOF OF DATE OF BIRTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER BEFORE A DRIVER LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD CAN BE ISSUED. IF YOU DON'T HAVE BOTH OF THESE YOU SHOULD CONTACT ANY OFFICE THAT ISSUES FLORIDA DRIVER LICENSE TO FIND OUT WHAT OTHER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

PERSONS APPLYING FOR ORIGINAL FLORIDA LICENSE WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE TESTS FOR LEARNER'S DRIVER LICENSE – VISION, HEARING, ROAD SIGNS AND ROAD RULES. **NOTE:** IF YOU HOLD A VALID DRIVER LICENSE FROM ANOTHER STATE, U.S. POSSESSION, FRANCE, TAIWAN OR CANADA YOU WILL ONLY BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A VISION TEST UNLESS YOUR DRIVING ABILITY IS QUESTIONABLE.

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TAKE THE ROAD SIGN AND THE ROAD RULES TEST IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO GET A COPY OF THE FLORIDA DRIVER'S HANDBOOK FROM THE ADDRESS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS LETTER OR FROM ANY FLORIDA OFFICE THAT ISSUES FLORIDA DRIVER'S LICENSE'S. THIS HANDBOOK TELLS YOU THE LAWS THAT YOU MUST DRIVE BY AND THE ROAD SIGNS IN THE STATE AND THE RULES OF THE ROAD IN FLORIDA.

IN FLORIDA, AFTER STOPPING, YOU MAY TURN RIGHT ON RED AT MOST INTERSECTIONS IF THE WAY IS CLEAR. SOME INTERSECTIONS DISPLAY A **"NO TURN ON RED"** SIGN, WHICH YOU

MUST OBEY. LEFT TURNS ON RED FROM A ONE-WAY STREET INTO A ONE-WAY STREET ARE ALSO ALLOWED IF THE WAY IS CLEAR.

THE LINES ON THE ROAD CAUSE MORE CONFUSION AND PROBLEMS THAN ANY OTHER SIGN OR LAW IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. **YELLOW CENTERLINE MARKINGS SEPARATE LANES OF TRAFFIC MOVING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS. WHITE LINES SEPARATE LANES OF TRAFFIC GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.** SOME OF THE BASIC RULES THAT YOU MUST FOLLOW ARE:

*A SINGLE SOLID, BROKEN OR DOTTED LINE MAY BE CROSSED WITH CARE. IN YELLOW IT MEANS PASS WITH CARE; AND IN WHITE IT MEANS TO CHANGE LANES WITH CARE.

*A DOUBLE SOLID LINE MAY NOT BE CROSSED. IN YELLOW, IT MEANS NO PASSING AND IN WHITE, A DOUBLE SOLID LINE MEANS DO NOT CHANGE LANES. HOWEVER, A DOUBLE SOLID YELLOW LINE MAY BE CROSSED IN MAKING A LEFT TURN.

*A DOTTED LINE IS USED TO GUIDE VEHICLES INTO PARTICULAR PATHS SUCH AS THROUGH INTERSECTIONS WHERE SOLID OR BROKEN OR SKIP LINES WOULD BE CONFUSING.

*A SOLID LINE WITH A DOTTED LINE HAS SEVERAL MEANINGS. PASSING OR CROSSING IS PROHIBITED IF THE SOLID LINE IS ON THE SIDE WHERE YOUR VEHICLE IS TRAVELING. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS IS WHEN YOUR VEHICLE IS TURNING INTO A REVERSED TURN LANE OR INTO A TWO-WAY LEFT TURN LANE WHERE THEY EXIST.

YELLOW CENTER LINE MARKINGS

*A BROKEN YELLOW LINE SHOWS THAT YOU MAY PASS ON THE LEFT WHEN THE WAY AHEAD IS CLEAR OF ONCOMING TRAFFIC.

*A SOLID YELLOW LINE TO THE RIGHT OF A BROKEN YELLOW CENTERLINE MEANS PASSING OR CROSSING IS PROHIBITED IN THAT LANE, EXCEPT WHEN TURNING LEFT.

*DOUBLE SOLID YELLOW LINES SHOW THAT PASSING IS NOT ALLOWED IN EITHER DIRECTION. YOU MAY NOT CROSS DOUBLE LINES UNLESS YOU ARE MAKING A LEFT TURN.

*BROKEN WHITE LINES SEPARATE LANES OF TRAFFIC GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AND MAY BE CROSSED WITH CARE.

*DOUBLE SOLID WHITE LINES INDICATE THAT CHANGING LANES IS NOT ALLOWED.

DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE IN FLORIDA IS A PRIVILEGE YOU EARN AND YOU MUST DRIVE SAFELY TO KEEP YOUR DRIVER LICENSE. IT CAN BE SUSPENDED, REVOKED OR CANCELED.

WE ARE GOING OUT OF THE RAINY SUMMER SEASON INTO THE DRY WINTER SEASON, WHICH IS WHAT SO MANY PEOPLE COME TO FLORIDA TO ENJOY. A FEW OF THE PORT LaBELLE LOTS ARE BEING BUILT ON.

THE LOCAL TITLE COMPANIES TELL ME THEY ARE SEEING MORE ACTIVITY IN PORT LaBELLE LOTS WHICH IS MOSTLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LOT(S) AND WANT TO GET THE TITLE CHANGED. IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE TITLE TO A PORT LaBELLE LOT YOU CAN DO THIS BY WRITING TO:

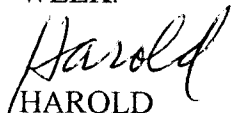
CLERK'S OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1760
LaBELLE, FLORIDA 33975

AND THEY WILL SEND YOU WHAT YOU WILL NEED OR CALL 863-675-5217 TO TALK TO A PERSON.

MOST PEOPLE PREFER TO HAVE A TITLE COMPANY CHANGE THE NAME AND WRITE TITLE INSURANCE AT THE SAME TIME FOR A TOTAL COST OF ABOUT \$250. I HAVE NO FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THIS COMPANY BUT I HAVE USED THEM FOR MANY YEARS:

TRI-COUNTY TITLE INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
P.O. BOX 2908
LaBELLE, FLORIDA 33975 863-675-1137 FAX 863-675-3876

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS I WILL BE HAPPY TO TRY AND HELP YOU IF I CAN. PLEASE DON'T FORGET A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AS I GET SEVERAL QUESTIONS A WEEK.


HAROLD

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