

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

WISCONSIN LAW FOR PRIVATE PARTY SALE OF VEHICLE

Per the Wisconsin Department of Transportation:

Beginning January 1, 2016, law ([342.41](#) Identity of buyer) went into effect requiring a person who sells a motor vehicle to another person, including transferring a junk vehicle by bill of sale, to submit notification to the department that a sale has occurred. This law does not apply for transfer to or from dealers or other non-individuals, such as companies, charities and government agencies; this requirement is **ONLY** for sales from one individual to another individual.

Within 30 days of a sale the seller needs to report to WisDOT the:

- Vehicle identification number (VIN) of the vehicle
- Identity of the individual buyer
- Sale price
- Date of sale

Submitting seller notification online

To submit seller notification online you need:

- To be an owner of the vehicle (must be an individual, not a business)
- Your Wisconsin driver’s license or identification card number (or full name)
- The last four digits of your social security number (or full SSN)
- Your date of birth
- The vehicle identification number (VIN) for the vehicle

Once completed, you will have the option to print, email, or save confirmation of your notification.

Mailed seller notification

If you are unable to successfully complete the seller notification online you will be prompted to complete Seller Notification form [MV2870](#) and mail the notification to the department or submit the form at a [DMV Service Center](#).

Selling a vehicle correctly

Seller notification does not replace other responsibilities of a vehicle seller. Refer to Selling a Vehicle and Instructions for Selling a Vehicle form [MV2928](#). Form MV2928 includes a bill of sale for your convenience; it is not a required form. You may keep a copy with your records and make a copy for the buyer as documentation of the sale.

This information and links to all the forms listed can be found at:

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/other-srvs/seller-notify.aspx>

Statute 342.41 states:

342.41 Identity of buyer.

(1) Notwithstanding s. 342.15, after December 31, 2015, no individual may sell a motor vehicle to another individual, including transferring a junk vehicle by bill of sale, unless within 30 days of the sale the seller reports to the department the identification number of the vehicle and the identity of the individual buyer.

(2) The department shall accept electronically information related to the sale of the motor vehicle, including all of the information required to be reported under sub. (1). History: 2015 a. 60.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic abuse, or “battering” is a pattern of abuse by one partner against the other, for the purpose of maintaining power and control. Domestic abuse often includes (but NOT ALWAYS) physical abuse. Forms of domestic abuse can include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Threats and intimidation
- Isolation or restriction from friends, family, and other support systems
- Destruction of property
- Financial exploitation
- Jealousy and possessiveness
- Stalking or monitoring of behavior

Physical battering: The abuser’s attacks or aggressive behavior can range from bruising to murder. It often begins with what is excused as trivial contacts which escalate into more frequent and serious attacks (this can include the abuse of household pets).

Sexual abuse: Physical attack by the abuser is often accompanied by, or culminates in, sexual abuse where the woman is forced to have sexual intercourse with her abuser, or to engage in unwanted sexual activity.

Psychological battering: The abuser’s psychological or mental abuse can include constant verbal abuse, harassment, excessive possessiveness, fault-finding, isolating the woman from friends and family, deprivation of physical and economic resources, threats to leave, divorce, commit suicide or institutionalize the victim, and destruction of personal property.

Battering escalates: It often begins with behaviors like threats, name calling, abuse in your presence (such as punching a fist through a wall) to create fear or intimidation, and/or damage to objects or pets. It may escalate to restraining, punching, pushing, kicking, slapping, pinching, tripping, biting, throwing, or grabbing. Finally, it may become life-threatening with serious behaviors such as choking, breaking bones, or the use of deadly weapons. (Remember, ANY household item can be used as a dangerous weapon!)

Adult domestic violence is one of the most serious public health and criminal justice issue facing women today. Most victims of domestic violence are women, and the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that women are twice as likely to be murdered by their domestic partners as men. However, the number of males becoming victims of domestic violence is increasing.

Every woman is at risk for becoming a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence has no regard for socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, religion, employment status, physical ableness, age, education, marital status, or sexual orientation. In fact, being FEMALE is the only significant risk factor for being a victim of domestic violence.

Abuse is NOT caused by stress, anger, or alcohol or other drug involvement. Many people find it difficult to understand why people batter their partners. This may be why, when we hear excuses like, “he had a bad day”, “she lost her temper”, or “he was drunk and out of control” we often accept them as viable reasons why the attack occurred. But battering has more to do with the batterer’s attitudes, beliefs, and relationships to others than it has to do with these common excuses. Many men believe they have the right to control their spouses, and to enforce their will on those around them, particularly females. Many men believe that it is the man’s duty to control his wife, regardless of the methods used. Some men even believe that women “need” to be “disciplined”. These beliefs and attitudes, coupled with society’s tolerance of domestic violence, make it one of the most difficult problems for our society to overcome.

Children in families where there is domestic violence suffer negative consequences even if they are not the targets of the abuse. Children who witness their mothers being abused by their fathers (or vice versa) often exhibit health problems, sleeping difficulties, acting-out behaviors, and feelings of guilt, anger, fear and powerlessness. In addition, research suggests that boys who witness their mothers being abused often grow up to be abusers themselves, thereby continuing the cycle of domestic violence.

What you as a victim can do: Understand that being a victim of abuse is not your fault, and the longer you stay in the abusive relationship, the more violent it will become. Remember, no one is justified in abusing you and you do not have to put up with the abuse, because you deserve better. So talk with your friends, parents, a counselor, or someone you can trust for help.

You can also contact the Marshfield Personal Development Center located at 214 West Second Street which is a community resource that provides victims of domestic violence with

- Developing a safety plan
- Locating emergency shelter
- Obtaining a restraining order
- Navigating through legal issues
- Finding other services in the community

Their hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and their telephone number is 715-384-2971; or after business hours contact Crisis Intervention at 715-384-5555.

Domestic Violence is illegal and an adult can be arrested, charged, and convicted!

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 7, 2017

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM). Because the internet touches almost all aspects of everyone’s daily life, NCSAM is designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of cyber security, provide us with the tools and resources needed to stay safe online, and increase the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident.

The campaign promotes all users to Stop. Think. Connect.

- Stop: Before you use the internet, take time to understand the risks and learn how to spot potential problems.
- Think: Take a moment to be certain the path ahead is clear. Watch for warning signs and consider how your actions online could impact your safety, your family’s or your organization.
- Connect: Enjoy the internet with greater confidence, knowing you’ve taken the right steps to safeguard yourself and your computer.

Five weekly themes will be presented in October on the website, and they are as follows:

Week 1 (October 2-6, 2017) Simple Steps to Online Safety.

Week 2 (October 9-13, 2017) Cyber Security in the Workplace is Everyone’s Business.

Week 3 (October 16-20) Today’s Prediction for Tomorrow’s Internet.

Week 4 (October 23-27) The Internet Wants YOU: Consider a Career in Cyber Security.

Week 5 (October 30-31) Protecting Critical Infrastructure from Cyber Threats.

We encourage everyone to go to the Homeland Security website at <https://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month> to learn more about National Cyber Security Awareness Month and how to protect yourself and your computer.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 14, 2017

DISTRACTED WHILE DRIVING

Within the Marshfield city limits, any persons using a cellular telephone that is not equipped with a hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle may be stopped and cited for the violation. Use is defined as dialing, answering, talking, listening, texting, or other manipulations of any controls of a mobile or cellular phone. The fine for violating this ordinance is \$79.90.

The State of Wisconsin has passed laws that ban the following:

- Drivers with an instructional permit or a probationary license to use a cell phone or any electronic device while driving.
- Drivers talking on hand-held cell phones in construction zones. Violators will be fined \$20 to \$40 and rising to \$50 to \$100 for subsequent offenses within a year.
- Drivers texting while driving. On average, it takes 4.6 seconds to read a text message on your cell phone. If you are driving 55 miles per hour, you would be driving the entire length of a football field blindfolded.

Despite enforcing these laws, distracted while driving continues to cause avoidable fatalities and injuries. All of us need to do our part by turning off the cell phone while driving, placing the phone on silent and putting it in the glove box out of reach.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 21, 2017**

**HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT SAFETY TIPS
AND
KIDS KANDY PATROL**

We are pleased to announce that the annual Marshfield Police Department’s Kids Kandy Patrol program will again take place during Marshfield’s Trick-or-Treat hours of 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

The Kids Kandy Patrol program this year will involve patrol cars and a fire department vehicle or ambulance visiting various neighborhoods throughout the city of Marshfield for the purpose of providing Halloween candy to children in a safe environment. The squad cars and fire department vehicle will stop on the side of the streets where there are children participating in trick-or-treat activities, and the emergency lights will be turned on. The officer/firefighter will exit the vehicle and hand candy out at that time.

We would like to recognize and thank V&H Heavy Truck and the Marshfield Professional Police Association for providing a generous donation of candy for this event.

The following are some important safety tips for children to follow when trick or treating.

- Never go out alone.
- Always stay in a familiar neighborhood with a group that includes an adult.
- Never take a ride from a stranger or enter a stranger’s house.
- Always examine the treats before eating them.
- Always dress in light-colored costumes.
- Carry a flashlight so drivers can see you more easily.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 28, 2017

ALL-NIGHT PARKING

Overnight parking on city streets or in any city-owned parking lot during the months of November through April is not permitted between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. There may be certain exceptions and permission will be granted at the discretion of the shift commander by calling Wood County Dispatch at 715-387-4394. However, no vehicles are permitted on city streets during a declared snow emergency.

For city-owned parking lots, a permit may be purchased at the police department to enable parking between these hours in designated areas only of specified city lots. The permit for all-night parking in a city-owned lot does NOT allow the holder of the permit to park the vehicle on the street during the night.

Parking regulations as stated above apply unless a street is otherwise signed or a snow emergency has been declared pursuant to Section 13-35(3) of the city’s municipal code.

This ordinance was created for ease of street maintenance, snowplowing and emergency response vehicles.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 4, 2017

ANIMAL SHELTERING

To help your pets remain happy and healthy during these colder months, you should not assume that a cat or dog’s “fur coat” is sufficient protection. Dogs and cats should never be left outside for long periods of time without proper shelter and supervision.

If your dog is an outdoor dog:

- It must be protected by a dry, draft-free dog house that is large enough to allow the dog to sit or lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold its body heat.
- The floor should be raised off the ground a few inches and covered with cedar shavings or straw. (Rugs or mats should not be used because they hold moisture.)
- The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with heavy burlap or a rug.
- If snow or salt collects between the dog’s toes, it should be removed.
- Always make sure your dog is given fresh drinkable water daily, as your pet will burn valuable body heat if it has to eat snow and ice because it is thirsty.

If you see or suspect animal abuse/neglect, please contact the dispatch center at 387-4394.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 11, 2017**

**SAFE SHOPPING TIPS
AND
RETAIL THEFT**

As the busiest shopping period of the year has started, you can protect yourself from the hazards related to Christmas shopping.

- Ensure that packages are out of view inside your **locked** vehicle, preferably in the trunk area.
- Protect your purse or wallet by keeping it close to your body and checking frequently for its presence.
- Do not leave unattended packages or valuables in your shopping cart.
- Notify store personnel if you see activity that is suspicious.
- Be aware of people around you. Camera phones are an easy way to photograph your credit card and pin numbers.
- Do not leave your children unattended.

Retail theft, commonly known as shoplifting, affects all of us with higher retail costs. Retail theft includes the taking of merchandise without paying for it and/or altering, transferring or removing a price tag to reflect less than the merchant’s stated price.

In addition to criminal charges and fines, the store can sue the person in civil court for the value of the merchandise, damages up to three times the value of the merchandise, and all costs involved in the apprehension and conviction to include attorney fees.

Retail theft increases over the Christmas holiday shopping season. Stores add extra security personnel and are monitoring areas with surveillance cameras. Save yourself time, money, and embarrassment—don’t shoplift.

The Marshfield Police Department wishes all of you a very safe and happy holiday season.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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NOVEMBER 18, 2017**

**THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
STEPPED UP DRUNKEN DRIVING ENFORCEMENT**

During the days surrounding the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays as well as throughout the year, the Marshfield Police Department strives to prevent motorists from killing and injuring themselves and others on our roadways. Although we try to increase voluntary compliance with traffic laws—not to write more tickets or make more arrests—we will take enforcement action if voluntary compliance fails. Our goal is to reduce preventable traffic deaths to zero in Wisconsin because even one preventable traffic fatality is one too many.

If you go out to celebrate, the Marshfield Police Department recommends the following tips:

- Plan a safe way home before your celebrations begin.
- If you plan to get a ride home with someone else, designate a sober driver before any drinking begins.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi or call a sober friend or family member so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you happen to see a driver who appears to be impaired on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement or call 911.
- If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

The Marshfield Police Department strongly urges the public to help keep the streets safe this busy holiday season and every day by drinking responsibly and designating a sober driver before heading to the local pub.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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NOVEMBER 25, 2017

SUICIDE PREVENTION

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, at least 90 percent of all people who commit suicide suffer from one or more mental disorders such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, or alcoholism. Depression in particular plays a large role in suicide. Suicidal people may have difficulty imagining a solution to their suffering due in part to the distorted thinking caused by depression, and the holidays can magnify and worsen these thoughts.

Most suicidal individuals give warning signs or signals of their intentions. The best way to prevent suicide is to recognize these warning signs and know how to respond if you spot them. If you believe that a friend or family member is suicidal, you can play a role in suicide prevention by pointing out the alternatives, showing that you care, and starting the process to get them some help.

Suicide prevention tips:

- Speak up if you are worried.
- Respond quickly in a crisis.
- Offer help and support.

Common suicide risk factors include:

- Mental illness.
- Alcoholism or drug abuse.
- Previous suicide attempts.
- Family history of suicide.
- Terminal illness or chronic pain.
- Recent loss or stressful life event.
- Social isolation and loneliness.
- History of trauma or abuse.
- Victim of bullying.

If you or someone you care about is considering suicide, there are many resources out there to get you help. Here are just a few options:

- In an emergency dial 911
- Wood County Crisis Intervention 715-384-5555
- United Way's First Call dial 211
- The 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK.
- www.preventsuicidewi.org

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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DECEMBER 2, 2017**

511: ROAD REPORT/TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Dialing 511 using your landline and cell phone, provides you with free real-time road report and travel conditions. You can also access the 511 internet site at: www.511wi.gov/.

Below is a listing of other free three-digit resource numbers offered that you may want to keep posted next to your phone or on your cell phone directory.

- 211 United Way’s Information Resource & Referral
- 411 Telephone – Directory Assistance
- 511 Road Report/Travel Conditions
- 711 Wisconsin Relay Text Telephone (deaf to speech)
- 811 Digger’s Hotline
- 911 Emergency – Police, Fire & EMS

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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DECEMBER 9, 2017**

**SNOW EMERGENCY
SIDEWALKS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE
CITY SAND BOXES**

Snow emergency: A “snow emergency” exists whenever there is an accumulation of snow of three or more inches during a 24-hour period, and such accumulation interferes with the ability of vehicles to travel safely in the City of Marshfield. A snow emergency continues in effect for 48 hours after the snowfall has ended and until the snow has been removed from the streets or until the emergency is cancelled by the director of public works.

During this time, parking on city streets and lots is prohibited, with the exception of the following locations but only after they have been plowed:

- Central Avenue from Harrison Street to 16th Street.
- Maple Avenue from Arnold Street to 6th Street.
- Chestnut Avenue from Arnold Street to 7th Street.
- 1st, 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets from Chestnut Avenue to Maple Avenue.
- 7th Street from Chestnut Avenue to Central Avenue.
- 2nd and 3rd Streets from Chestnut Avenue to Cedar Avenue.

Violations can result in a parking ticket and the towing of your vehicle. This ordinance allows our street maintenance crews to remove the snow safely and efficiently.

Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks: City ordinance states that it is the responsibility of owners of property abutting or containing public sidewalks to keep these sidewalks free from snow and ice accumulations at all times. The owner is responsible for removing or having removed all accumulations of snow and ice from the entire paved width and length of the sidewalks within 48 hours after snow or ice has fallen or accumulated thereon. In the case of drifting snow or of ice accumulating due to melting and refreezing, the owner shall keep all sidewalks sprinkled with sand or salt.

If the owner fails to comply, the city’s street superintendent may arrange for prompt removal or treatment of the ice and/or snow accumulations and may repeat removal or treatment procedures as often as necessary to maintain such sidewalks in a safe and usable condition. Any costs and expenses for removal or treatment shall be charged to the property owner.

City sand boxes: For your safety, the Marshfield street department provides sand, at no charge, to people residing within the city limits. These sand boxes are located at the following inter-sections:

14th/Schmidt
Upham/Walnut
St. Joseph/Upham
Becker/Peach

5th/Columbus
11th/Adams
7th/Chestnut
8th/Peach

17th/Palmetto
Doege/Peach
17th/Felker

Please use the sand economically by taking only the needed amount. A five-quart ice cream pail is recommended to transport the sand to your driveway and sidewalks.

A reminder that when taking sand, you need to park your vehicle in a legal and safe parking area. (Sand is no longer available for pick up at the street department.)

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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DECEMBER 16, 2017

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING

During the holidays, we urge everyone to drink responsibly. Two out of five people will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. If you have had too much to drink, coffee or cold showers won't sober you up. Only TIME can do that. To protect yourself and others, control your drinking by using the following tips:

- Eat to slow alcohol's effects. Avoid carbonated drinks—they speed up the effects.
- Alternate alcohol with non-alcoholic drinks.
- Alcohol is alcohol, no matter what form. A 12-ounce beer has as much alcohol as a 5-ounce glass of wine or a 1-1/2 ounce shot of hard liquor.
- If you drink, don't drive.
- Have a sober designated driver.

Use common sense when drinking. An evening's celebration is not worth the risk of injury or a costly drunken driving arrest.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
DECEMBER 23, 2017

AUTOMOBILE WINTER SURVIVAL KIT

Winter travel, especially by vehicle, is serious business. You should always carry a survival kit. Your kit can be as extensive as you want, but you should include those items which would allow you to survive 12-24 hours without the benefit of the vehicle heater. A recommended list might include:

- One sleeping bag or two or more blankets for every person in the automobile.
- Three-pound coffee tin, which can be used to melt snow. **NOTE:** *Many of the items on this list can be stored in the can.*
- Matches and candles (a blanket over your head, body heat, and the heat from a single candle can prevent freezing).
- Flashlight and extra batteries—good for signaling help.
- Winter clothing to include cap, mittens, heavy socks, boots, gloves, coveralls, etc.
- First aid kit, including any special medications for you and your travelers.
- Bottled water will probably freeze, so allow expansion room in the container.
- Bright piece of cloth to tie to antenna.
- High protein/carbohydrate nonperishable items such as granola bars, high energy bars, peanut butter, etc.
- Kitty litter, sand, or ashes for vehicle traction.
- Travel shovel.
- Jumper cables.
 - Cell phone.
 - Tow rope.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
DECEMBER 30, 2017

PASSING SNOWPLOWS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES

There are no state laws that prohibit you from passing a snowplow. However, it is illegal (state statute 346.915) to follow a snowplow closer than 200 feet upon any highway having the posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour if the snowplow is engaged in snow and ice removal. This does not apply when overtaking and passing a snowplow. But if the operator of any vehicle upon a highway having a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour, follows the snowplow more closely than 200 feet for one mile or more or follows more closely than 200 feet when the snowplow is moving at the maximum speed limit of the roadway, this is convincing and legal evidence that the operator of such following vehicle is violating this law.

The majority of crashes involving snowplows and vehicles happen when a snowplow is rear ended or hit while being passed. Snow plows have wing plow blades that can extend anywhere between two (2) and ten (10) feet beyond the width of the truck. This wing plow blade is often not seen because of the snow cloud being kicked up by the snowplow. These wing plows can often weigh as much as a compact car.

There are three safety rules that are worth following:

- Give snowplows plenty of room to work. They are big and hard to see around.
- Don't pass a working snowplow—they can throw up a cloud of snow that could cause a whiteout and disorient you.
- Also, it is tough for snowplow drivers to see you. Don't crowd the plow. Make sure when behind a plow that you can see the driver's mirrors so he can see you. Remember, it is the law that you stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow.

One of the major hazards emergency workers and road crews face is being struck by passing motorists while the workers are performing their duties, and their emergency vehicle/machinery is parked with its flashing lights activated.

Wisconsin law states that the operator of any vehicle which approaches an emergency vehicle, such as a police squad, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck, or road machinery must do one of the following:

Move into another lane if the roadway has at least two lanes, or
Reduce speed until completely past the vehicle or machinery if there is only one lane or if it is unsafe to change lanes.

You can keep emergency workers and road crews safe by reducing speed and allowing as much room as possible as you pass.

For a state-wide road report call 511 or check the internet site <http://www.511wi.gov/web/>