

Practical Legal Guidebook for foreigners

Prevention of traffic accidents and the law



English

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About road transportation in Korea

I'd like to drive a vehicle in Korea

- You should have a driver's license if you want to drive a car, motorcycle or electric kickboard.
- You must not drive while your license is suspended.
- A person driving a car without a valid license is subject to imprisonment or fines.



You may drive a vehicle in Korea if you have a valid international driving permit

- You may drive a vehicle in Korea if you have a valid international driving permit.
- You should have both a valid international driving permit and the license issued by your home country.
- If you have a license from your home country, and your home country is one of the 140 countries recognized by Korea, you may convert it to a Korean license. Otherwise, if the above is not the case, you should apply for a new license in Korea.



Getting auto insurance

With valid auto insurance, you can have your loss from damages in a car accident compensated

- Having arranged your auto insurance in advance, you can have the cost incurred for car repairs or injury treatment from a traffic accident covered.

Please make sure to get liability auto insurance

- If you have not purchased auto liability insurance, you can be subject to a fine and can't drive.



You may get full coverage auto insurance

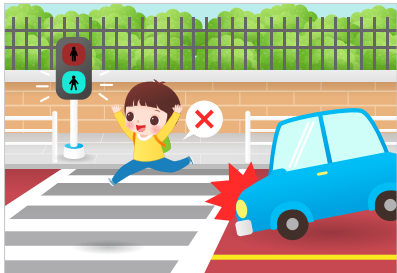
- If you have gotten full coverage auto insurance, you can have a lot more covered than only liability insurance.
- If you have caused injury to another person or damage to another person's car, your loss from damages will be covered.
- If you have been injured or your car has been damaged, your loss from damages will be covered.



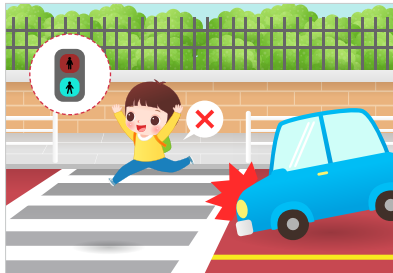
Do not jaywalk

- You are subject to a fine for jaywalking on a street without a pedestrian crosswalk or when crossing the street on a red pedestrian signal.
- You should not cross the street on a flashing green pedestrian signal.

Most common traffic accidents involving children



Type 1 Children dashing out on a green signal at a pedestrian crosswalk



Type 2 Children on a pedestrian crosswalk without pedestrian signals



Type 3 Children standing close to a car making a right turn



Type 4 Children standing behind a car moving in reverse



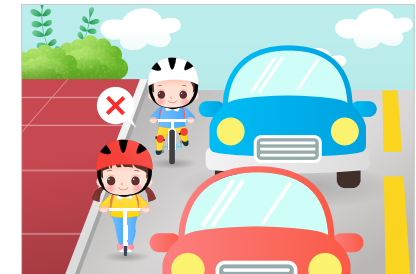
Type 5 Jaywalking



Type 6 Children dashing toward the road



Type 7 Children darting out into between vehicles



Type 8 Children riding on a kickboard or bike on a narrow street

Zones designated for protection of children, seniors, and people with disabilities

- A person failing to meet the obligation for protection of children in a designated safety zone is subject to severe penalties.

Fines for speeding and violating traffic signals/signs

Speeding	Ordinary roads	School zones
Violations in the range of 20km/h or less	KRW 30,000	KRW 60,000
Violations in the range of 20~40km/h	KRW 60,000	KRW 90,000
Violations in the range of 40~60km/h	KRW 90,000	KRW 120,000
Violations in the range of 60km/h or less	KRW 120,000	KRW 150,000
Violations of traffic signals/signs	KRW 60,000	KRW 120,000

Penalties for causing a traffic accident

- If you have caused minor injuries to another person while driving as someone with auto insurance coverage, you may avoid being subject to criminal penalties if the injured party drops charges for criminal liability.
- If you have caused serious bodily injury or death to another person while driving and the case corresponds to a category of the top-12 gross negligence cases, you can be subject to imprisonment or a fine.

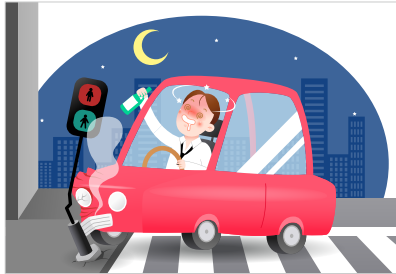


Top-12 gross negligence cases

- | | |
|--|---|
|  <p>Traffic signal violations
Violation of a traffic signal light, stop sign post or a police officer's hand traffic signal</p> |  <p>Speeding
Speed limit violations</p> |
|  <p>Driving without a valid license
A case of causing an accident while driving a car or construction equipment without a valid license</p> |  <p>Overtaking/Cutting-in Violations
Violation of regulations on passing or overtaking another car between lanes</p> |
|  <p>Centerline violations
Crossing the centerline; causing an accident while crossing/ turning/ moving in reverse on a highway</p> |  <p>Failing to prevent passengers from falling from a vehicle
A case of traffic accident caused by violating the obligation of closing vehicle doors tightly</p> |
|  <p>Violation of the railroad crossing method
A case of failing to stop and check whether it is safe at railroad crossing</p> |  <p>A traffic accident at a pedestrian crosswalk
A traffic accident at a pedestrian crosswalk</p> |
|  <p>Designated safety zone for protection of children
A case of causing injury to a child while driving in a designated safety zone for protection of children</p> |  <p>An accident caused by a drunk driver
A case of traffic accident caused by a drunk driver or a person influenced by narcotics, psychotropic substances or cannabis</p> |
|  <p>A car running into sidewalk
A case of traffic accident by a car running into sidewalk or pedestrian crosswalk</p> |  <p>Violation of cargo fixing measures
Failing to take the proper precautionary steps to keep goods from falling off a truck</p> |

Do not commit a DUI

- If you are caught driving under influence, you can be subject to imprisonment or a fine.
- Also, your driver's license will be revoked or suspended for a given period of time. You will not be allowed to reapply for a driver's license up to 5 years.
- Not complying with a police officer's breathalyzer test is a severe violation. you can be subject to imprisonment or a fine.



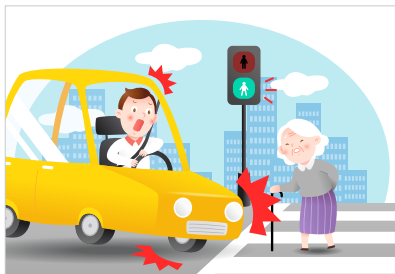
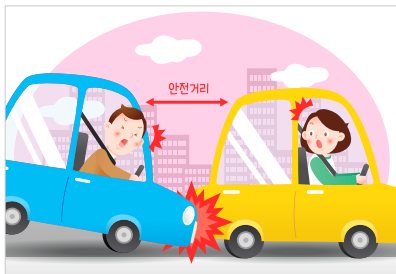
Driving under influence (DUI)



Not complying with a police officer's breathalyzer test is a severe violation.

What is reckless driving?

- If you perpetrate two or more of the following simultaneously or repeat any of them, you are committing reckless driving: traffic signal violation, centerline violation, pedestrian crosswalk/ U-turn violation, illegally backing/ changing lanes, failing to secure a safe distance, unsafe sudden braking, obstructing the path of other vehicles, passing other cars recklessly, etc.
- A person driving a car recklessly is subject to imprisonment or fines. Also, your driver's license will be revoked or suspended for a given period of time.



What is retaliatory driving?

- Passing another car suddenly, shoving another car to the centerline or shoulder, suddenly braking in front of another car, exiting your car in the middle of the road and using abusive or threatening language at another motorist.
- A person driving a car in a retaliatory manner is subject to imprisonment or fines. Also, your driver's license will be revoked or suspended for a given period of time.



Steps to take after a traffic accident

I was involved in a traffic accident while driving

Taking a step for an injured person

- Call 119 if there are injured people. Do not run away after an accident.
- Make sure to leave your name and phone number even if the injured party says it is not needed.
- If you fail to take a step for an injured person, you can be subject to imprisonment or fines.

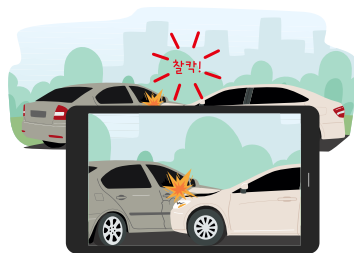


Prevention of secondary accidents

- Arrange to turn on hazard lights to avoid another accident. Put a reflective marker (e.g. warning triangle) near the scene of a traffic accident to alert other approaching vehicles.

Secure the scene of accident

- Make sure to keep the site of traffic accident as is in place until the police arrives. Mark the site with spray paint if possible and take photos of the scene.



Reporting to the police and the insurance company

- Report the accident to the police (☎112). Report the accident to your insurance company.
- Upon the police's arrival, draw up the application for confirmation about the traffic accident-related facts.

- 아 래 -

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	위반 사항	안전운전의무위반		
사고 유형	차량 단독			
발생개요	성명	연령	성별	사상정도
피해 상황	김○○	32	남	사망
용도	산재 제출용			
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If you are injured

- If you are injured in a traffic accident, get adequate treatment first and then agree on the best way to reach a settlement of the medical bill with the other party. When a mutual agreement is made, you cannot claim for a reimbursement of your medical expense.
- You may ask for reimbursement of your medical bill within 3 years from the last day of your treatment.

Taking all reasonable steps to prevent a traffic accident

Please make sure to wear a safety belt

- Wearing a safety belt is mandatory while driving even for those in the backseat.
- Children also must wear a safety belt. Make sure to use a car seat for children under age 6.
- Failure to use a safety belt or a car seat for children under age 6 will be subject to a fine.



Agencies from where you can seek help

Road Traffic Authority (KoROAD) (☎1577-1120, www.koroad.or.kr)

- Driver's license test and issuance of a license
- Safety education about school buses
- Special traffic safety education for drivers with DUI offense and those who have violated traffic regulations
- Contact center is opened from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on weekdays
- Round-the-clock online counseling from chatbot provided by the Ministry of Interior and Safety (MOIS)

Danuri Call Center (☎1577-1366, www.liveinkorea.kr)

- Counseling for multicultural families provided in 13 languages
- Service hours : Main Center: Around the clock / Local centers: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on weekdays (Calls made outside of operating hours and on holidays will be automatically directed to the Main Center.)

Korea Legal Aid Corporation (☎132, www.klac.or.kr)

- Information on how to get legal aid; checking legal forms and consultation cases; application for cyber consultation; reservation for in-person visits for consultation
- Contact center is opened from 9:00 - 11:50 a.m. and 1:00 - 5:50 p.m. on weekdays