

# Dept. of Transportation: Wisconsin State Patrol June law of the month - flashing yellow arrow means yield before turning left

Posted on Friday, Jun 18, 2021

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A flashing yellow arrow is an increasingly common sight at signalized intersections in Wisconsin. Wisconsin State Statute 346.37 (1)(e) sends a clear signal to drivers: a left turn is permitted, but you must first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

“A left turn is one of the most dangerous movements a motorist makes,” Wisconsin State Patrol Captain Jason Zeeh said. “Studies show that flashing yellow arrow left turn signals improved safety at intersections.”

For safe operation motorists should remember:

- A flashing yellow arrow does **NOT** give you the right of way. Opposing traffic has a green signal and the right of way
- The flashing yellow arrow means you may proceed with caution.
- A flashing yellow arrow means you may turn in the direction of the arrow or make a U-turn, unless a sign prohibits U-turns, only after yielding to other vehicles and pedestrians. Go only when it is safe and the way is clear.

The flashing yellow arrow often appears in a four light signal but may also appear in a three light signal that also features:

- A steady green arrow that means a driver has the right-of-way to make a left turn or make a U-turn unless a sign prohibits U-turns.
- A steady yellow arrow that means drivers should be prepared to stop.

- A steady red arrow that means drivers should stop and wait.

The signals may include an adjoining, static sign that reads: “Left turn – yield on flashing yellow arrow.”

More information is available on flashing yellow arrows on the WisDOT website: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/safety-eng/flash-yellow.aspx>