

**Imperial County District Attorney's Office**

**Driver Awareness**

**Course Control #3620-29502-19**

**Expanded Course Outline Revised 3/02/2020**

**Purpose:**

Course is designed to provide students with skills to become proficient in utilizing slow speed maneuvering. Control of a vehicle at slow speeds while negotiating movements, driving forward and in reverse under restricted road conditions, as well as parking maneuvers.

**I. Introduction/Orientation**

- A. Introduction, Registration, and Orientation
- B. Course Objectives, Overview, Exercises, Evaluation, and testing.

**II. Basic Driving Principles**

A. Weight Transfer II(g)

- 1. Weight Transfer
  - a. Vehicle is a sprung mass
  - b. Center of gravity shifts depending on height of vehicle
- 2. Engine location has greater part of weight distribution
- 3. Types of weight transfer
  - a. Lateral: Side to side
  - b. Longitudinal: Front to rear/ Rear to front
- 4. Lateral transfer occurs when vehicle moves left or right
- 5. Longitudinal transfer occurs when:
  - a. Braking (rear to front)
  - b. Accelerating (front to rear)
  - c. Decelerating (rear to front)
- 6. Cannot be eliminated in a moving vehicle

7. Minimized by good driving techniques and smooth operation

## B. Steering Control

### 1. Seating position

- a. Driver comfort
- b. Efficient vehicle control
- c. Wrist break over top of steering wheel
- d. Seated 12” from air bag
- e. Adjust mirrors

### 2. Steering Method II(e)

- a. Hand position at 8 and 4
- b. Hands do not leave steering wheel
- c. Maximizes steering accuracy
- d. Safer and more effective recovery
- e. Minimizes weight transfer
- f. Minimizes air bag deployment injury

### 3. Steering Method – Backing

- a. Body rotated to the right
- b. Right hand placed on right headrest
- c. Vision directed over right shoulder
- d. Left hand on steering wheel at 12 o’clock position
- e. Press left leg against bottom of steering wheel for stability
- f. Left foot braced on floorboard

## C. Roadway Position

1. The position of the vehicle on the roadway that maximizes speed with minimum steering and risk of loss of vehicle control while negotiating a turn

a. AKA- Driving line

2. Driving Advantages

- a. Minimize and control weight transfer
- b. Minimize steering input
- c. Smoother vehicle operation
- d. Maximum speed through turns in the safest manner

3. Driving Points in Turns

- a. Entry (point #1)
- b. Apex (point #2)
- c. Exit (point #3)

**III. Legal and Moral Aspects**

II(f)

A. California Codes

- 1. 17001 CVC
- 2. 17994 CVC
- 3. 17004.7 CVC
- 4. 21052 CVC
- 5. 21055 CVC
- 6. 21056 CVC
- 7. 21057 CVC
- 8. 21703 CVC
- 9. 21806 CVC
- 10. 21807 CVC
- 11. 22106 CVC
- 12. 22350 CVC

B. Case Law

1. Traffic Accidents

a. Peterson vs. City of Long Beach

i. Failure to follow policy/rules

ii. Civil Liability

iii. 669 Evidence Code Page 3 of 4

2. Grant vs. Petronella

a. Non-code 3 driving

b. Rules of the road

3. Pursuits

a. Stark vs. City of Los Angeles

i. Pursuit type driving without lights and siren

ii. City is liable

4. Tennessee vs. Garner a. Deadly force considerations

5. Brower vs. Inyo County

a. Roadblocks

i. “Deadman’s” roadblocks

ii. PIT maneuver

C. Agency Policy

1. Vehicle Pursuit Policy

2. Vehicle Operations Policy

D. Moral Aspects

1. Due Diligence

a. Due Regard for others safety

b. Balancing of our actions and the benefit or harm to the community

IV. Defensive Driving II(c)

## A. Defensive Drivers

1. Avoid collisions regardless of right-of-way
2. React properly to hazards
3. Maintain a professional attitude
4. Commentary driving

## B. Dangerous Driver Attitudes

1. Overconfidence
2. Self-righteousness
3. Impatience
4. Preoccupation

## C. Collision Avoidance II(d)

1. Space cushion
  - i. Three second rule
  - ii. Perception/ Reaction Time (1.5 seconds).
  - iii. When stopped, see rear wheels of vehicle in front
2. Intersections
  - i. Clear left, right, then left again
  - ii. Cover brake on stale green light
  - iii. Do not turn wheels until beginning turn
  - iv. Look through turns
3. Maintain high visual horizon—Look beyond hood of vehicle.
4. Consider steering to the rear of a conflict vehicle
5. Backing
  - i. Large percentage of collisions involving LE vehicles
  - ii. Use proper backing techniques
6. Lane changes

- i. Signal
- ii. Check mirrors
- iii. Check blind spots
  - i. Equipment in LE vehicle's creates more and larger blind spots

#### D. Occupant Safety Devices

- 1. Safety belts
- 2. Supplemental Restraint System (airbags)

#### E. Vehicle Dynamics II(g)

- 1. Rear wheel cheat
- 2. Front-end swing
- 3. Over steer
- 4. Under steer

### **V. Maneuvering Courses Exercises II(a,b)**

- A. Offset Lane Exercise
- B. Turn-Around Maneuver Exercise
- C. Steering Course Exercise
- D. Parallel Parking Exercise II(e)

### **VI. Course Evaluation/Review**

Student Evaluation Form to be provided to students for course and Instructor(s) evaluations.