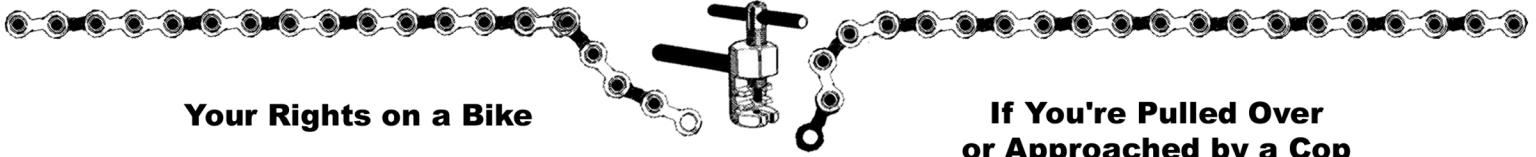


# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## When riding a bike in Santa Fe



### Your Rights on a Bike

- You have the right to ride your bike on city streets
- You are under no obligation to yield to cars unless you are pulling into traffic or a cop specifically says so
- You have the right to ride on the sidewalk if you are not in a business district
- You have the right to decide for yourself how far to the right is safe for you to ride, from the right curb to the center lane and any place in between
- You have the right to take up a whole lane if you feel the need
- You have the right to ride side-by-side with one other bike in each lane
- You have the right to decide for yourself what is a safe speed
- You have the right to lock your bike to any public object if it doesn't block car or pedestrian traffic
- If you are over 18 you have the right to ride without a helmet
- You have the right to wear headphones while riding

### Bicycle Law in Santa Fe

- You have to obey all the same traffic laws and follow all the same street signs as cars
- If you are riding on a sidewalk, you have to yield to pedestrians and let them know when you are passing
- You can't hold on to cars
- You have to be able to have at least one hand on the handlebars
- You can only carry as many people as the bike is designed for
- You need a white (clear) light for the front of your bike and a red reflector for the back when riding at night
- You need a bell or something else that someone can hear from 100 feet away (but you can't use a siren or whistle)
- You need at least one braking mechanism.

### If You're Pulled Over or Approached by a Cop

- Because you aren't driving a car, you don't have to show a drivers license. The cop will probably run a check on you anyway by asking for your name and sometimes your social security number. You can refuse to give a social security number and only give your name. If you refuse to identify yourself in any way you might get arrested, but most likely will not get charged.
- You don't have to answer any questions about anything. This includes your immigration status, your criminal record, your possessions and any question pertaining to your bike, your riding style or why you were pulled over. The police can't work directly with immigration enforcement officers (la migra) in Santa Fe.
- You can ask the cop for her or his name and badge number. This might help you in filing any complains or prevent you from being harassed and/or abused. They might refuse to give it to you, but if they do, write it down and keep it safe.
- You can ask the cop if you are being arrested. If you are not being arrested you can ask if you are being detained. If you are not being detained, you can ask if you are free to leave. If you are free to leave, you can walk (or ride) away.
- If you are being arrested or detained, you can ask to know what your charges are or the reason for your detention. You can say "I am going to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer." You most likely will not speak to a lawyer anytime soon, but this may help you later if there are further legal issues.
- You can refuse to allow the cop to search your person or property. They might do it anyway, but the fact that you did not consent to a search might help if there are later legal issues.
- If you have read this pamphlet, you will probably know more about bicycle traffic law than most police officers, but arguing with cops on the streets will probably not help the situation. If you feel you have been wronged, the place to argue is in court.

*Breaking any of these laws is a VIOLATION, not a crime. It's similar to getting a speeding ticket. If you get convicted of breaking any of these laws, the worst that can happen is you get a ticket for \$25 and/or you could spend up to 25 days in jail and/or your bike can be impounded for up to 30 days. It might show up on your traffic record, but it won't show up on any criminal record. Bicyclists rarely get pulled over in Santa Fe, but the chances increase the closer we get to the Plaza. When we do get pulled over, cops rarely do more than give a warning. Chainbreaker has never heard of anyone in Santa Fe doing jail time for riding outside the law.*



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# Chainbreaker

For more information call 505-989-3858 or visit [www.chainbreaker.org](http://www.chainbreaker.org)