

# '3 Foot Rule' Violation Guide



SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE





# Understanding the Law

## 21760(c) CVC

The rule prohibits the driver of a motor vehicle from passing a bicycle in the same direction on a highway at a distance of less than 3 feet between the vehicle and the bicycle.

Where 3 feet of clearance isn't available, the driver must slow down and pass only when it's safe to do so. The driver may not cross a double yellow center line, even to provide the required clearance.

# Filing a Report



[www.smcsheriff.com](http://www.smcsheriff.com)

Bicyclists can now use the Sheriff's online crime portal to report vehicles operating in an unlawful manner, including not obeying the 'three-foot rule'

A category titled, "Bicycle Complaints" has been added to the online reporting system

Violations must occur in our contract cities: Millbrae, San Carlos, Woodside, Portola Valley and Half Moon Bay

Reports must include the reporting party's contact information, the offending driver's license plate, a detailed narrative and picture(s)



SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SUMMARY INCIDENT REPORT



REPORT NUMBER: T23000834

INCIDENT INFORMATION						
INCIDENT CODE	INCIDENT TYPE	INITIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE/TIME STARTED	DATE/TIME ENDED	DATE/TIME REPORTED
Bicycle	Bicycle Complaints	SUPP	<input type="checkbox"/>	07/06/2023 11:42 AM	07/06/2023 11:42 AM	07/07/2023 11:00 AM
REPORT FILED FROM	TRACKING NUMBER	LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE			APPROVED BY:	
98.45.44.89	T23000834	1583 Alameda de las Pulgas, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070				
LOCATION TYPE	THEFT TYPE	METHOD OF ENTRY	METHOD OF EXIT	PT OF ENTRY	PT OF EXIT	ENTRY LOC
Street/Highway/Alley						

PERSON LISTINGS									
1	TYPE	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	DOB	RACE	SEX	DRIVER LIC NO	LIC ST
	VIC	Schuster	Brian		04/15/1985	White	M		
	SSN	ETHNICITY	RESIDENT	EYE COLOR	HAIR COLOR	AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	CELL PHONE
		Not Hispanic or	Resident						650-868-8913
	EMAIL	RESIDENCE ADDRESS				HOME PHONE			
	bri.schuster@gmail.com				300 Live Oak Way, 303, Belmont, CA 94002, US				650-868-8913
	EMPLOYER NAME				BUSINESS ADDRESS				WORK PHONE

VEHICLE LISTINGS									
1	INVL	LIC PLATE TYPE	LIC PLATE NO	LIC ST	LIC YEAR	VEHICLE TYPE	VIN		
	Invol		55120K2			Pickup or Panel truck			
	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	STYLE	YEAR	MKT VALUE	DMG VALUE		
	GMC	Denali	White			\$	\$		
	DESCRIPTION								
	White GMC denali pickup								

NARRATIVE
I was riding northbound on Alameda de las Pulgas in the bike lane in San Carlos when a white GMC pickup passed me very close, perhaps 18-24" from my handelbars. The truck passed well within the 3-foot buffer required by CVC 21760. The truck had plenty of room within the lane to pass me safely and failed to do so.

INCIDENT IMAGE
----------------

REPORT NUMBER: T23000834

INCIDENT IMAGE

Sample Online Report

# Report Process



## STEP 1

The submitted report is auto-generated to the Records Bureau



## STEP 2

A Records Supervisor will route the report to the respective Bureau



## STEP 3

A Sergeant will assign a Deputy to investigate the matter



# Warning Letter



The Deputy will conduct a thorough investigation, and if warranted the owner of the vehicle will be sent a warning letter.

If a warning letter is issued as part of an investigation, the Deputy assigned to the matter will send an email notification to the reporting party.



SHERIFF

CHRISTINA CORPUS

SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063  
Telephone: (650) 363-4911

April 24, 2023  
CAD #21-\*\*\*\*\*

John Doe  
Address  
Woodside, CA 94062

DATE:  
TIME:  
LOCATION:  
VEHICLE:  
LICENSE PLATE:

Dear Mr. Doe,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that on the above listed date and time, a motor vehicle registered in your name was observed being operated in an unlawful manner near a bicyclist. This incident was reported to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office by a concerned citizen and consisted of the following violation:

*21760(c) California Vehicle Code – A driver of a motor vehicle shall not overtake or pass a bicycle proceeding in the same direction a highway at a distance of less than three feet between any part of the motor vehicle and any part of the bicycle or its operator.*

Also, please be aware that when a lane is too narrow for vehicles and bicycles to be safely side by side, a bicycle may choose to ride in or near the center of the lane to discourage motorists from unsafe passing.

At the time of this incident, you may not have been operating the vehicle; however, I wish to bring this matter to your attention so that the appropriate party may be cautioned with respect to such driving behavior. As part of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office service to the motoring public, it is sometimes necessary to remind motorists that everyone shares the responsibility to use our roadways in a safe and legal manner.

Beyond this letter requesting your cooperation, no further action is anticipated. Your efforts towards safer use of the roadway system will conclude this matter.

Sincerely,

Deputy \_\_\_\_\_

# RIMS Process



## **STEP 4**

Fill out the warning letter with all the pertinent information



## **STEP 5**

Digitally sign the warning letter



## **STEP 6**

Open RIMS and click on the Vehicles tab to find the "Vehicle Look Up" section

Vehicle Attachment

Vehicle

Attachment

PDF Quick View

Audit

Available To....

Get Attachment from a Disk File

Link Attachment from a Disk File

Delete this Attachment

Save Attachment to a Disk File

Get Attachment from Agency Forms

Copy this Attachment

View RIMS PDF

View Attachment Externally

Date: 06/26/2023

Vehicle: 469233

By: 18530

Category: "3 Foot Rule" Letter

Note:

Attachment Information

Status	File Loaded	ID: 10
Attachment Type:	.pdf	
Attachment Size:	383,679	
Original File Name:	PG RIMS GUIDE.pdf	

## STEP 7

Add your vehicle if it is not already in RIMS (under the "Vehicle" menu section, add the information and then select "Add as New Vehicle")

Vehicle

Blue Honda Crv

Page 1

Assoc Persons

Photos

Queries

Audit

Attachments

Aliases

License/St/Yr: ABC123 CA

Colors: BLUE

Make: HONDA

Model: CRV

Year: ☐ Temporary Plate

Lic Type:

Assoc Person:

Owner:

Notes:

Ofcr Safety:

☐ Excl from matching when running Duplicate Vehicles List

☐ Plate Surrendered

VIN: 239VEO239348012923

Status:

Veh Type:

Body Style:

☐ Stolen ID: 587138

☐ Inactive

☐ Fictitious plate involved

Tow FCN:

Tow Date:

Impound Release Date:

## STEP 8

Click on the "Attachment" section on the left panel of the vehicle page



Page 1

Assoc Persons

Photos

Queries

Audit

Attachments

Aliases

(No Records)

Add Attachment

## STEP 9

Click on “Add Attachment”

Vehicle

Blue Honda Crv

Page 1

Assoc Persons

Photos

Queries

Audit

Attachments

Aliases

License/St/Yr

ABC123

CA

VIN

239VEO239348012923

Colors

BLUE

Make

HONDA

Model

CRV

Year

☐ Temporary Plate

Lic Type

Status

Veh Type

Body Style

☐ Stolen
 ID 587138

☐ Inactive
 ☐ Fictitious plate involved

Assoc Person

Owner

Notes

Ofcr Safety

☐ Include from matching when running Duplicate Vehicles List
 ☐ Plate Surrendered

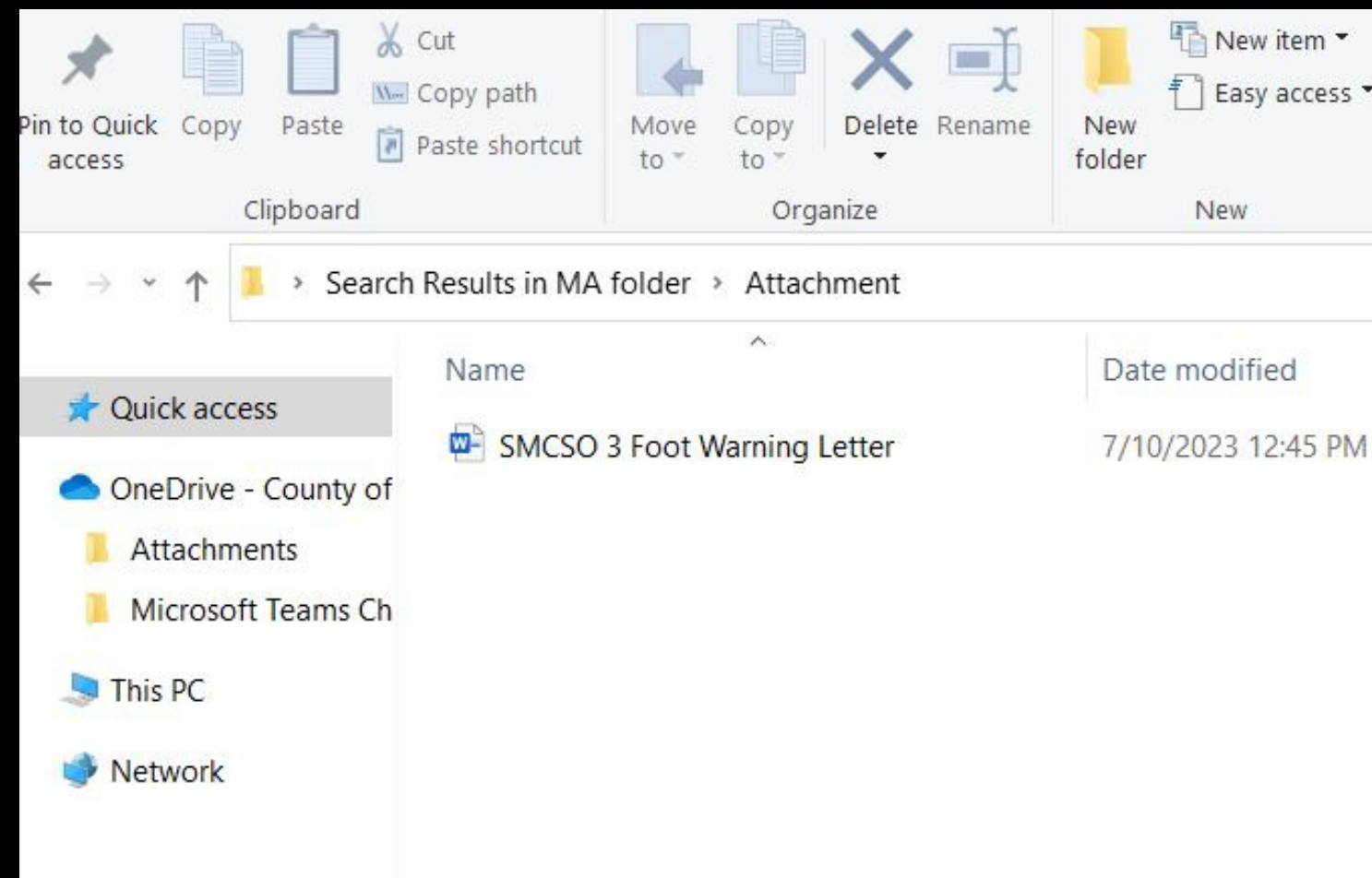
Tow FCN

Tow Date

Impound Release Date

## STEP 10

Click on Get Attachment from a Disk File  
 \*\*\*NOT Link Attachment from a Disk File\*\*\*



## STEP 11

Double-click on the respective attachment from where you have the letter saved

A screenshot of a web application titled 'Vehicle Attachment'. The left sidebar has a 'Vehicle' section and an 'Attachment' section which is highlighted in yellow. Below 'Attachment' are links for 'PDF Quick View', 'Audit', and 'Available To...'. The main area contains a form with fields for 'Date' (06/26/2023), 'Vehicle' (469233), 'By' (18530), and 'Category' (3 Foot Rule Letter). There is a 'Note' field with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the form are buttons for 'Get Attachment from a Disk File', 'Link Attachment from a Disk File', 'Delete this Attachment', 'Save Attachment to a Disk File', 'Get Attachment from Agency Forms', 'Copy this Attachment', 'View RIMS PDF', and 'View Attachment Externally'. At the bottom right, there is a section for 'Attachment Information' showing details like Status, Attachment Type (.pdf), Attachment Size (383,679), and Original File Name (PG RIMS GUIDE.pdf).

## STEP 12

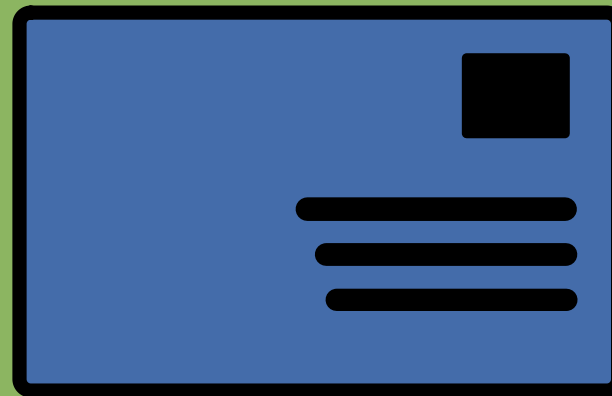
Choose the “3 Foot Rule” Letter as an the attachment type and hit “Save”

# Mailing Process



## **STEP 13**

Print the letter



## **STEP 14**

Address the envelope to the registered owner of the vehicle



## **STEP 15**

Place the sealed envelope in your Bureau's unstamped mail box to be processed

# Final Step



The Deputy will send an email to the assigned Sergeant detailing the outcome/results of the investigation

Contact your Sergeant if you need further clarification on the '3 Foot Rule'

For any RIMS related questions contact a Records Bureau Supervisor

