

BULLETIN NO. 17

Kadyn's Law – Iowa School Bus Safety



In 2012, the Iowa Legislature unanimously adopted Kadyn's law. The law was in response to the death of seven year old name Kadyn Jade Halverson who was struck by a pickup and killed while trying to cross the road to board a school bus.

The driver of the pickup violated Iowa's stop arm law which prohibits drivers from passing a stopped schools bus when the stop arms are out, or when the red or amber lights are flashing.

Kadyn's law increased the criminal penalties for passing a stopped school bus and increased the license sanctions for these offenses. Under Kadyn's law an individual who is convicted of failing to stop for a School Bus Stop Arm will be subjected to the following punishment for unlawful passing of a school bus under Iowa Code section 321.372(5)(b):

First Offense – A fine of at least \$250.00 but not more than \$675.00, and/or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, and a 30 day license suspension.

Second Offense – (in five years) A fine of at least \$315.00, but not more than \$1,875.00, and/or imprisonment not to exceed one year, and a 90 day license suspension.

Third Offense – (in five years) A fine of at least \$315.00, but not more than \$1,875.00, and/or imprisonment not to exceed one year, and a 180 day license suspension.

Violations resulting in injury or death have increases fines and increased periods of suspension. Iowa Code § 321.482A.

Other offenses not affected by Kadyn's law could be applicable in a case involving a violation of the law resulting in injury or death. The possible charges and penalties for those violations are listed below.

Serious Injury by Vehicle – A Class D felony – is punishable by up to five years imprisonment, a fine of at least \$750.00 but not more than \$7500.00, surcharges and court costs and a one year license suspension.

Homicide by Vehicle while Intoxicated – A Class B Felony – is punishable by a mandatory 25 years imprisonment, fines, surcharges and court costs and a six year license suspension.

Homicide by Vehicle Reckless/Eluding – A Class C Felony – is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of at least \$1000.00 but not more than \$10,000.00, surcharges and court costs and a one year license suspension.

DO YOU KNOW WHEN STOPPING IS REQUIRED?

Find out here: www.iowadot.gov/schoolbus/requiredstopping.html

IS THE LAW WORKING?

School bus drivers in the state have expressed increased frustration with the lack of enforcement of Kady's law throughout the state. In survey conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) in 2016, Iowa bus drivers were asked to keep track of violations for one day. The 1,200 drivers who responded recorded 165 bus stop violations just in that one day.



Any one of those violations could have resulted in serious injury or death of a student.

We are asking districts to increase awareness of the law by sharing the rules with parents and the community. Please consider sending information home with your students, and using social media to direct the community to additional information. Sometimes a simple reminder is all it takes.

Please send this bulletin home with your kids this year!