

8-1568. Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; penalties. (a) (1) Any driver of a motor vehicle who willfully fails or refuses to bring such driver's vehicle to a stop for a pursuing police vehicle or police bicycle, when given visual or audible signal to bring the vehicle to a stop, shall be guilty as provided by subsection (c)(1).

(2) Any driver of a motor vehicle who willfully otherwise flees or attempts to elude a pursuing police vehicle or police bicycle, when given visual or audible signal to bring the vehicle to a stop, shall be guilty as provided by subsection (c) (1).

(3) It shall be an affirmative defense to any prosecution under subsection (a)(1) that the driver's conduct in violation of such paragraph was caused by such driver's reasonable belief that the vehicle or bicycle pursuing such driver's vehicle is not a police vehicle or police bicycle.

(b) Any driver of a motor vehicle who willfully fails or refuses to bring such driver's vehicle to a stop, or who otherwise flees or attempts to elude a pursuing police vehicle or police bicycle, when given visual or audible signal to bring the vehicle to a stop, and who: (1) Commits any of the following during a police pursuit: (A) Fails to stop for a police road block; (B) drives around tire deflating devices placed by a police officer; (C) engages in reckless driving as defined by K.S.A. 8-1566, and amendments thereto; (D) is involved in any motor vehicle accident or intentionally causes damage to property; or (E) commits five or more moving violations; or

(2) is attempting to elude capture for the commission of any felony, shall be guilty as provided in subsection (c)(2).

(c) (1) Violation of subsection (a), upon a:

- (A) First conviction is a class B nonperson misdemeanor;
- (B) second conviction is a class A nonperson misdemeanor; or
- (C) third or subsequent conviction is a severity level 9, person felony.

(2) Violation of subsection (b) is a severity level 9, person felony.

(d) The signal given by the police officer may be by hand, voice, emergency light or siren:

(1) If the officer giving such signal is within or upon an official police vehicle or police bicycle at the time the signal is given, the vehicle or bicycle shall be appropriately marked showing it to be an official police vehicle or police bicycle; or

(2) if the officer giving such signal is not utilizing an official police vehicle or police bicycle at the time the signal is given, the officer shall be in uniform, prominently displaying such officer's badge of office at the time the signal is given.

(e) For the purpose of this section:

(1) "Conviction" means a final conviction without regard to whether sentence was suspended or probation granted after such conviction. Forfeiture of bail, bond or collateral deposited to secure a defendant's appearance in court, which forfeiture has not been vacated, shall be equivalent to a conviction. For the purpose of determining whether a conviction is a first, second, third or subsequent conviction in sentencing under this section it is irrelevant whether an offense occurred before or after conviction for a previous offense.

(2) "Appropriately marked" official police vehicle or police bicycle shall include, but not be limited to, any police vehicle or bicycle equipped with functional emergency lights or siren or both and which the emergency lights or siren or both have been activated for the purpose of signaling a driver to stop a motor vehicle.

(f) The division of vehicles of the department of revenue shall promote public awareness of the provisions of this section when persons apply for or renew such person's driver's license.

History: L. 1974, ch. 33, § 8-1568; L. 1981, ch. 42, § 2; L. 1992, ch. 239, § 29; L. 1993, ch. 291, § 4; L. 1994, ch. 291, § 3; L. 1996, ch. 180, § 2; L. 1998, ch. 145, § 1; L. 2009, ch. 132, § 2; L. 2014, ch. 76, § 1; July 1.