

Section 412 - Lighting Exemptions for Emergency Police Vehicles

Effective Date - 3/23/2025
Amended Date -

412.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Coleraine Police Department to provide a uniform guideline for all personnel to use when operating a department vehicle without headlights, taillights, or marine navigational lighting while functioning as a peace officer.

412.2 DEFINITIONS

Illumination Devices: means the headlights, taillights, and watercraft lights vehicles are required to be equipped with and use according to statute.

Vehicle: means every self-propelled vehicle and every watercraft that is owned, leased, or otherwise the property of this agency and used in the performance of [an officer's] law enforcement duties.

412.3 PROCEDURE

A peace officer shall operate a vehicle with its illumination devices on as described and guided by statute when:

- A. on an interstate highway,
- B. traveling at speeds greater than what is reasonable and prudent under existing weather, road, and traffic conditions,
- C. traveling faster than the posted speed limit, and
- D. the peace officer is an active participant in the pursuit of a motor vehicle in violation of MN Statute 609.487- Fleeing Peace Officer; Motor Vehicle; Other.

When the circumstances described above do not apply, a peace officer may apply the lighting exemption statute (MN Statute 169.541) and stop or interrupt the use of their vehicle illumination devices if

- A. the peace officer does so in the performance of their duties,
- B. the conduct is reasonable, and
- C. the peace officer reasonably believes that turning off a vehicle's illumination devices is necessary under the circumstances to investigate a criminal violation or suspected criminal violation. The types of violations being investigated may be state laws, rules, orders or local laws, ordinances, or regulations.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

MN STATUTE 84.87 – Operation; Regulations by Political Subdivisions
MN STATUTE 84.928 – Operation Requirements; Local Regulation
MN STATUTE 86B.511 – Lights
MN STATUTE 169.48 – Vehicle Lighting
MN STATUTE 169.541 – Lighting Exemption for Law Enforcement; Standards
MN STATUTE 169.65 – Specifications for Lighting and Other Devices
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 6110.1200 – Navigation of Watercraft on the Waters of the State; Safety Equipment