

Here are the rules to become a 'Certified Dade County Driver'

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A while back I took an AARP-sponsored defensive driving course. It saved me a couple of hundred dollars on my auto insurance. Look into it.

The instructor, in his effort to get points across kept referring to "Certified Dade County Drivers" and emphasized how to defend yourself against them. I thought it might be a good idea to train people to be Dade County Drivers and not be embarrassed by others thinking that you are a tourist or out-of-towner.

Here are the rules:

- Never, I repeat never, use that thing on the left hand side of your steering wheel to turn on those flashing directional signals. This immediately identifies you as being from out of town and besides, whose business is it anyway as to which way you are going to turn. You know, and that is all that is important.

- Never give up the space in front of your car, known here as "the right of way." If you see someone coming towards you from some distance away and attempting to make a left turn in front of you, do not slow down or take your foot off the accelerator. Instead, tromp down on the gas pedal and come as close to hitting this person as possible accompanied by a blast of your horn. This will teach him or her a valuable lesson.

- When you feel like taking a nice slow leisurely drive, head for the nearest highway or expressway and head over to the left hand lane and just cruise and enjoy the scenery. Ignore the flashing lights and horns behind you. What is their hurry? When it comes time to exit the highway, wait until the last possible moment and then cross all three or four lanes at once. This will tend to slow people down a bit and probably avoid future accidents.

- Never allow anyone to merge into your lane in front of you. Let them in behind you if you can but never in front of you. If you ignore this easy lesson you might be 30 nanoseconds late for your next appointment. Multiply this over 10 years and now you are talking several minutes. None of us have that much time to waste.

- When using your cell phone to talk or text, be sure to slow down to a safe reasonable speed in the left hand lane and pay attention to the person you are communicating with. That person wants and deserves your complete attention. You can get back to watching the road later. Don't be rude!

- Red Lights: Outside of Dade County these usually mean STOP! Here they are merely a suggestion. Should you inadvertently get into an accident by going through the light, you might have your license suspended. This does not stop you from driving however; it only means that you are driving without a license, something you now share with many other Dade drivers.

- Insurance: Fuggedaboutit. Everyone else does. Let the other guy worry about it.

Special rules for young drivers: You can pick up chicks by buying a junky car and spending the dollars you save by installing gegundo speakers mounted in the trunk. Make sure you have at least a 1,000-watt amplifier and some good quality low-end distortion recordings to play through them. Leave your windows open for everyone to hear. Eventually the chicks will begin to gravitate to you. Or so I am told. (My wife will not let me drive with the windows open.)

To be sure it is working properly, look at the drivers around you. If they seem deeply annoyed, your sound system is working perfectly.

For those interested, I will begin an offensive driving course that will be conducted monthly on the first Sunday to fall in the middle of the week. Please visit our website at <www.youarenuts.driv>.