

# Safety Tips: Riding with a Passenger

CVMA KY 1-2 Sergeant at Arms







# Preparation is the First Step

- Prepare yourself
  - Are you experienced enough to ride two-up?
  - How well do you know the bike you are riding?
- Prepare your motorcycle
  - Are there passenger foot pegs, an adequate seat, backrest, etc.?
  - Need to adjust suspension and/or tire pressure to accommodate extra weight?
- Prepare your passenger
  - Do they have the necessary protective gear?
  - Hand signals, leaning, getting on-and-off the bike, etc.





# Are YOU Ready to Carry a Passenger?

- No two people are the same, so there is no exact formula to describe when someone is ready to transition from solo rider to riding with a passenger
- You should know your motorcycle!
  - Smaller motorcycles tend to be more impacted by passengers than larger ones
  - Cornering is different, especially tight corners and slow-speed maneuvers
- If you are a new(er) rider, take your time learning the skills necessary before adding the extra weight, movement, and risk of a passenger



You will need to account for the *space* a passenger requires such as longer braking, shared storage, etc.





### State Laws

Each state has its own guidelines. In Kentucky,

- If you only possess a "permit" you are **NOT** allowed to ride with passengers
- If you as operator have had your motorcycle endorsement less than a year, both you and your passenger must wear a helmet
- All passengers under the age of 21 must wear a helmet
- All operators and passengers must wear eye protection
- The motorcycle must have a seat or footrest permanently attached, both being specifically designed to carry passengers in a safe manner
- The Kentucky State Police has oversight of these rules. A copy of the Kentucky Motorcycle Manual can be found at the following link: http://kentuckystatepolice.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/motorcycle\_rev\_03\_13\_12\_op.pdf







# Prepare your Motorcycle

- Check the owner's manual
  - Most manufacturers describe what to do when adding extra weight to the motorcycle such as adjustments to suspension and tire pressure
- TCLOCS
  - This should be a normal part of the routine but more important when you have the responsibility of another person
  - Double check that passenger seats, foot pegs, and other straps are secure
- Add a backrest to your motorcycle
  - It's likely you have never ridden as a passenger on your (or anyone else's for that matter) motorcycle
  - Not only does this add comfort, it adds safety! Ask anyone who has hit a bump and fallen off the back of a bike; bet they will agree

Prepare for emergencies





# Prepare Your Passenger

- Make sure the passenger has the correct safety gear. That is **YOUR** responsibility
- Have a pre-ride briefing; explain route, hand signals, etc.
- Explain how they should get on-and-off of the motorcycle
- Make sure they use their foot pegs and to avoid mufflers
- Build trust with your passenger; take speeds slower at first
- Try to be smooth with all movements



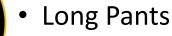
Make it fun! If you want them to ride again, make it a positive experience.





### How to Be a Good Passenger

- First of all, you, the passenger should know that the person who you are riding with has skills and experience necessary to do the job; do so by asking:
  - How long have you been riding?
  - How long have you been riding this motorcycle?
  - How long have you been riding with passengers?
  - Do you have a motorcycle permit and insurance?
- Ask about the type of motorcycle gear you will need for the ride, it is recommended all riders have properly fitted:
  - Helmet
  - Eye Protection
  - Jacket
  - Gloves



• Boots





# How to Be a Good Passenger

- Learn how to get on-and-off the motorcycle
- Know where your feet go during operation even when stopped
- Do not interfere with arms or shoulders of the rider
- Learn the difference between counter-steering and counter-balancing
- Have a way to communicate using hand signals
- Be prepared for sudden stops or movements!
- Understand how to take a curve
  - Most of the time it is best to remain in a neutral position when going around curves or lean with the rider. Let your rider give you the cues on what is needed
  - If the rider is leaning into a curve, do not lean in the opposite direction

Be careful of the muffler; it will get very hot, very fast

elax and Have Fun!





### Recommended Links

A few recommended links. There are too many sources to list on this topic so you should always search to find a resource that best suits **your** needs.

#### Kentucky Motorcycle Manual

<u>http://kentuckystatepolice.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/motorcycle\_rev\_03\_13\_12\_op.pdf</u>

#### Tips On How To Ride With A Passenger On A Motorcycle

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GltJ62\_it0

#### How to be a Motorcycle Passenger

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeWD\_Lx9NWo



