



MEMORANDUM

PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

CLARENCE W. DUPNIK, SHERIFF

Date: March 5, 2009

To: Concerned Personnel

From: Lt. K. Woolridge, Special Operations

Re: **Bicycle Law ARS 28-815: Riding two abreast**

Recently, several incidents have arisen in which varying interpretations have been expressed regarding Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 28-815. This statute pertains to bicycles on roadways and the issues concerning the matter of if they may be operated two abreast.

The County Attorney's Office has reviewed this statute. They have rendered the opinion that bicycles may be operated side-by-side (two abreast) on the portion of the roadway between the fog line (white line on the right) and the center line. Bicycles operated to the right of the fog line may ride in any configuration, including more than two abreast. However, once bicycles move to the left of the fog line, no more than two abreast in the actual travel lane is acceptable.

In addition, bicycles must be operated as far to the right as practicable with four exceptions:

- When making a left turn
- When passing another bicycle or car in the same direction
- When avoiding objects or hazards
- When the lane is too narrow for both a car and a bicycle to travel side by side

Bicyclists still have a duty not to impede the flow of traffic. ARS 28-704C requires a bicyclist, or any motorist for that matter, to move off the roadway and allow traffic to pass when a line of five or more cars forms behind them. This statute applies only on two-lane roadways.

Another statute, ARS 28-735A requires motor vehicles to leave a safe distance of at least three feet when passing bicycles travelling in the same direction. This statute should be used when citing motorists for not safely passing bicyclists, especially when a collision occurs.

In an effort to consistently enforce these statutes throughout Pima County, please abide by this interpretation when enforcing bicycle laws. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Sgt. Copfer at 351-6204.