

RIGHT-OF-WAY OF BLIND PEDESTRIANS WITH WHITE CANES OR GUIDE DOGS.  
G.S. 20-175.2.

The motor vehicle law provides that when any blind or partially blind pedestrian [extends before *him* at arm's length a white cane or a white cane tipped with red]<sup>1</sup> [is accompanied by a guide dog], *he* is entitled to the right-of-way at an intersection [where traffic is not regulated by a traffic officer or traffic control signals] [regulated by traffic control signals, if such pedestrian is partly across the intersection when the signal changes].

In such a situation all operators of vehicles at or approaching the intersection must come to a full stop, leaving a clear lane through which such pedestrian may pass, and remain stopped until *he* has completed passage of the intersection.

A violation of this law is negligence within itself.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>G.S. 20-175.1 provides: "It shall be unlawful for any person, except one who is wholly or partially blind, to carry or use on any street or highway...cane or walking stick which is white in color or white tipped with red."

<sup>2</sup>G.S. 20-175.3 provides: "Nothing contained in this part shall be construed to deprive any blind or partially blind person not carrying a cane white in color or white tipped with red, or being accompanied by a guide dog, of any of the rights and privileges conferred by law upon pedestrians crossing streets and highways, nor shall the failure of such blind or partially blind person to carry a cane white in color or white topped with red, or to be accompanied by a guide dog, upon the streets, roads, highways or sidewalks of this State, be held to constitute or be evidence of contributory negligence by virtue of this part." (The "part" includes G.S.20-175.1 through 20-175.4.)

