“If you can Steer it, Clear it – It’s our law!”
Michigan law now requires you to move your vehicle from the main traveled portion of the roadway if you have been in a crash where your vehicle can be moved and there are no apparent injuries. Look for a safe refuge, such as the shoulder, emergency lane, or median, and then call the police. Failure to obey this law can result in a civil penalty.

**Why the change?**

The basic answer is safety. Once you are in a crash, the odds increase greatly that you can be involved in a subsequent collision if you don’t move your car off the roadway.

According to the Traffic Crash Reporting System, there were more than 236,000 vehicle crashes in Michigan in 2013 that did not involve injuries or fatalities. Leaving your car in the roadway creates a danger for you and others involved in the crash. It also endangers first responders who come to the scene, as well as motorists traveling behind you.

When crashes are not moved off the roadway in a timely manner, traffic congestion can result. This congestion can be prevented - doing so not only improves safety but also reduces the amount of fuel wasted by idling vehicles and improves air quality.

**What about the police and insurance companies?**

Not only is it ok with the police – they will give you a ticket if you have not moved your vehicle when it is possible and safe for you to do so. The law clearly states if a driver moves their vehicle in accordance with the law, it is not evidence of fault in the crash. Police and insurance company personnel are well-trained to analyze crashes and determine the cause. The safety of the traveling public and first responders is the highest priority.