

What's Against the Law?

People can be arrested for committing the following criminal misdemeanors in the city of Kalamazoo. A public safety officer can arrest a person for these crimes if he or she witnesses it. If no officer is present when the violation occurs, a witness can report the matter to Public Safety and an officer will be assigned to investigate it. If the officer concludes that an offense has been committed, he or she will prepare a warrant request for review by the City Attorney and a judge. Once the warrant is signed, the violator can be arrested.

Loitering

Simply sitting on a park bench for hours at a time isn't unlawful in the city of Kalamazoo. The situation becomes illegal when the loiterer:

- By words or conduct—harasses, assaults, molests, or intimidates any other person.
- Interferes with any person's use of public streets, sidewalks, public places, or places open to the general public (after a police officer has asked them to stop.)
- Creates a reasonable concern for the safety of persons or property in the vicinity or a reasonable belief that a breach of peace is imminent.

IF SOMEONE NEEDS Overnight Shelter/Services:

NAME	HOURS	ADDRESS	ELIGIBILITY
Alpha & Omega Ministries	Open Mon-Fri 9 am - 6 pm Residency options available	821 South Rose St 345-3814	Men 18 yrs. and older
ARK Crisis Center Crisis Intervention	24-hour Emergency Shelter Open 7 days a week	990 W. Kilgore 343-8765	Youth ages 10-17 yrs. Parent/guardian needed to sign child in
Eleanor House (Housing Resources)	24-hour Emergency Shelter Open 7 days a week	522 Eleanor Street 382-0287	Families with children from Kalamazoo County
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission	24-hour Emergency Shelter Open 7-days a week	488 N. Burdick 345-2974	Men and women over 18 yrs. Old Single men, women with families. Substance abusers welcome
Next Door Shelter For Women	Open 7 Days a Week 3-9:30 pm	1215 W. North St 349-2119	Single women ages 18-35 yrs. old
Open Door Shelter For Men	Open 7 Days a Week 3-10pm	414 Ranney St. 345-1431	Men 17-35 yrs. old
YWCA Domestic Assault Program	24-hour Emergency Shelter Open 7 Days a Week	353 E. Michigan Ave. 385-2869	Male or female abuse victims & Children

IF SOMEONE IS UNSURE OF THE BEST ASSISTANCE OPTION FOR THEIR SITUATION, THEY CAN CALL 211 FOR REFERRAL HELP.

COMMUNITY HOUSING HOUR: Every Wednesday from 4:00-5:00 pm Goodwill Building, Alcott Street

IF SOMEONE NEEDS Food:

Gospel Mission 448 N. Burdick 345-2974 Breakfast 6:45 am Lunch 12:30 pm Dinner 6pm Monday-Sunday	Loaves and Fishes 901 Portage St. 488-2617 Taking calls 8 am - 4pm Monday—Friday	Ministry with Community 440 N. Church St. 343-5880 Breakfast 8-9am Lunch 1:30—2:30pm
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IF SOMEONE NEEDS Day Shelter/Services:

Ministry with Community Drop In Center 440 N. Church St. 343-6073 Restrooms, local phone, calls, laundry, showers, lockers, social service staff	Gospel Mission Cold Day Service 448 N. Burdick St. 345-2974 6am-9:30 pm Public restrooms, snacks and beverages
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Begging/Panhandling

It's not unlawful to ask a person for money. The situation becomes illegal when the beggar/panhandler:

- Expresses or implies threat or coercion.
- Solicits handouts in a repeatedly and/or in a threatening fashion.
- Beckons to, stops, or attempts to stop passerby repeatedly and/or in a threatening fashion.
- Continues to solicit from a person after the person has given a negative response.
- Utilizes threatening bodily gestures that are directed toward a person or persons.
- States that funds are needed to meet a specific need, when the solicitor has the funds to meet the need, does not intend to use the funds to meet that need, or does not have that need.
- Is a part of a group of two or more persons.
- Is within 10 feet of an entrance to a building; within 20 feet of a public toilet; within 20 feet of any entrance or exit of a bank, credit union, or ATM
- Solicits after sunset or before sunrise.
- Solicits in any public transportation vehicle, nor within 20 feet of where such vehicle takes or releases passengers, nor within 20 feet of a bus stop.
- Solicits in parking lots and ramps.
- Solicits any person who occupies a table, bench or seat located in a public place except with that person's consent.
- **To reach Public Safety call: 269-377-8994 or 911**

SAY NO TO PANHANDLERS

When you give change to a person on the street, you don't know how that money is being spent. There are more productive responses, such as referring the person to the services listed inside this guide or supporting these or any other social service agency of your choice in Kalamazoo County.

Important Numbers

Emergency.....911

Kalamazoo Public Safety.....337-8994

Community Mental Health

Crisis Line.....(269)373-6000

Indecent Exposure—A person can't make any indecent exposure of his or her person in any public place or within public view.

Public Urination— A person can't urinate or defecate while on or in any public street, sidewalk, alley, park, parking lot, parking structure, public carrier, or any other place open to the public.

Impeding Pedestrian or Vehicular Passage—A person can't do any act that hinders or impedes the passage of pedestrians or vehicles on any street, sidewalk, or any other place open to the public.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

- Report the crime by calling 911.
- Be willing to come forward as a witness. Kalamazoo Public Safety officers can't issue a case without your help.

Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated
141 E. Michigan Ave Suite 501
269-344-0795/downtownkalamazoo.org

LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS SAFELY IN A CARING , COMPASSIONATE AND HELPING COMMUNITY.

Helping to access appropriate services for those who may be homeless, have mental illness, or a substance abuse problem in downtown Kalamazoo.



Interacting with a Person Who May Have Mental Illness

When interacting with an individual who you believe may have a mental illness, or might need supportive services, treat that person with the same dignity and respect that you expect. Make eye contact, smile, and be attentive.

There is common belief that persons with a mental illness are dangerous. This is more myth than reality. Statistically, those with mental illness are less violent than the general public. If you believe an individual is feeling threatened, or is threatening you, exercise caution.

Your physical presence and body stance communicate to others. A relaxed stance with open hands communicates acceptance and is non-threatening. If you think someone is feeling threatened or may be dangerous, be aware of how you are positioning yourself. Do not put yourself between the individual and the exit. Know where, within your physical site, you can be safe. If you get into trouble, call 911 if an emergency occurs or call 337-8994 to leave a message for a downtown beat officer.