

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · CROOKSTON

Vehicles, Calendar Parking and Towing in Crookston, 2026

Here the winter parking rule is called calendar parking, and none of the four neighboring settlements has it. The City's own site also carries three conflicts on this subject, and all three can end in a bill.

SHORT ANSWER

Keep three things apart. **Registration is a state matter:** there is no inspection and no emissions test, because the metro emissions program was repealed in 1999; the money goes into a **value-based registration tax** instead. **Insurance follows state statute:** Minnesota is a **no-fault** state, so a quote from another state tells you nothing here. And **winter parking is municipal**, but in this city the rule resembles none of its neighbors: it is called **calendar parking**. From **November 14 through April 1, between 1 and 7 a.m.**, you may not park on the **even-numbered address side** of a street on an even day, or on the **odd-numbered side** on an odd day. It runs whether or not snow falls, so you are not waiting for a declaration, you are **reading the calendar**. A second regime sits on top: the public works director may declare a snow emergency **by 4 p.m.**, it takes effect at **midnight** that evening, and while in force you may not park **on any street or alleyway in the city**. Plowing and sanding begin at **three inches** of accumulation.

Registration and insurance: a state matter, briefly

- **No inspection and no emissions test.** The state closed that program and the section shows as repealed in the statutes. There is no annual inspection appointment, no inspection fee and no tailpipe test to expect.
- **A value-based registration tax comes instead.** The higher the vehicle's value, the higher the annual registration; build that line into the budget when you buy. The formula and counter fees are in [the vehicle section of the state guide](#).
- **No toll roads, and no express lanes here either.** The state has four express lanes, but **none of them is within 400 kilometers of this city**, so the dynamic pricing arithmetic on the metro pages is not a planning item for you. The transportation department's own warning does apply everywhere: **text messages demanding a toll payment are a form of fraud**.
- **Studded tires are banned, chains are allowed.** Statute bars a tire on a vehicle moved on a highway from carrying any stud, block or cleat projecting beyond the tread; chains are expressly permitted when snow or ice makes them necessary.
- **The nonresident exception does not save you.** The statute says plainly that **a person whose regular place of employment is in the state or who is a student at an educational institution in the state** may not operate a vehicle, whatever state it is plated in, with tires that would be unauthorized here. Since there is an institution of higher education in this city, the rule is not abstract: **if you work or study here, the right answer is non-studded winter tires**.

- **Insurance costs more here and the reason is statute.** The mandatory package includes personal injury protection plus uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage. Two protections for a newcomer are written into law: **if no score can be produced because there is no credit history, the insurer must exclude credit as a factor**, and **the scoring methodology may not include gender, race, nationality or religion**.
- **And two items that matter locally:** the mandatory coverage pays for **interpretation and sign language services** tied to medical care, excluded only where a family member provides it; and liability coverage extends to accidents **in Canada**. For a reader living close to the Canadian border that is not an abstract detail but a line to confirm in writing once.
- **One warning against confusion:** the statutory rule about a single rating territory in a city of the first class concerns **homeowner insurance, not auto**. If you hear that argument in an auto quote, ask for the source.
- **One question we cannot answer:** we **could not verify** whether a Social Security number or an ITIN is required to register a vehicle. There is explicit statutory text removing the number requirement for a license; we found no counterpart in the vehicle chapter. Call before the appointment.

Winter: a reflex learned in one city gets your car towed in another

We write that sentence on purpose, because snow regimes in this state are **municipal** and five settlements are built on five different logics. Read the table once, then use only your own row.

SETTLEMENT	LOGIC OF THE REGIME
This city	Calendar: November 14 to April 1, 1 to 7 a.m., side set by whether the day is odd or even. Plus no parking at all during a declared emergency
Minneapolis	A three-day declared emergency regime, plus a separate winter parking restriction
St. Paul	A 96-hour, three-phase emergency that works off the sign on your street
Plymouth	An emergency triggered at a two-inch threshold, plus a year-round overnight ban
Minnetonka	No concept of an emergency at all; a year-round overnight ban and a six-hour limit

None of the four neighbors has calendar parking. The reverse holds too. Explain it once to your household, because whose name the car is registered in makes no difference to the ticket.

THREE CONFLICTS ON THE CITY'S OWN SITE: WE TAKE NO SIDE

- **The sidewalk clearing deadline.** The winter guidelines page says the property owner must clear the adjacent sidewalk **within 24 hours**; the services page says the city ordinance allows **48 hours** after snowfall ceases, failing which the City may clear it and assess the cost plus an administration fee against the property.
- **How long an emergency lasts.** The ordinance text quoted on the page says the emergency takes effect at midnight and **continues for 24 hours**; the winter parking paragraph directly beneath says emergencies are effective **between midnight and 7 a.m.**
- **Downtown.** The winter guidelines page frames downtown as a **midnight to 8 a.m. snow-removal schedule** and says calendar parking does not apply to downtown streets; the services page says the downtown business district is under **year-round 1 to 7 a.m. calendar parking restrictions**.
- **The practical route:** if you live or work downtown, call public works and ask which text governs, **218-281-1232**, and write the answer down with the date. Where it is unclear, **follow the strictest rule** and keep the car off the street overnight.

How plowing works

- **The threshold is three inches.** Plowing or sanding begins once accumulation passes three inches, or when drifting and icing seriously affect travel.
- **Sanding is limited.** Controlled intersections first, then hills and curves, and generally only those because the crew is small. Do not expect every street to be sanded.
- **The order is:** emergency routes, then main routes, then neighborhoods, cul-de-sacs, **alleys**, parking lots, sidewalks and trails. The detail there is not small: **this city plows alleys**, while St. Paul says its alleys are never plowed.
- **Pushing snow onto the road is prohibited.** Both state statute and city ordinance bar plowing, shoveling or blowing snow onto public roadways. Keep a path around hydrants, clear the area upstream of your driveway, and know that the City repairs a mailbox only on **direct plow impact**.

WHERE YOU WILL HEAR THE ANNOUNCEMENT, AND WHY "I DID NOT HEAR" FAILS

- Declarations are announced on KROX radio, cable television **channel 3**, the Crookston Times and the City's Facebook page.
- Emergency notifications come from a separate system: the City sends them through the Everbridge alert platform and **you have to sign up**. Do it the week you move in; water interruptions are announced there too.
- **The City's own text frames it in one sentence:** notification **is a service right only and not a duty on the part of city officials**. So "I did not hear" is not an excuse.
- **The practical setup for a newcomer:** follow at least two of those channels, and from mid-November to early April turn **moving the car to the correct side every evening** into a habit.

If your car is towed: the order to follow

- 1 Find out whether the car was actually towed.** Make the first call to the City's public works side, **218-281-5711**, with the director's line at **218-281-1232**. Ask about a second possibility specific to this city: the car may not have been towed but **plowed in**, since the plow order covers neighborhoods and alleys too.
- 2 Ask which lot it went to and who may collect it.** We **could not find** an official list of the impound address, the fee schedule or who may collect a vehicle here, so this guide prints no amount and no address. Three questions on the phone: who may collect the vehicle, which documents are required, and which payment methods are accepted. The neighboring settlements answer differently; in one a relative with the same surname may collect it, in another **only the registered owner** may.
- 3 Gather the documents in advance.** Items common in this region: proof of ownership (the registration, a bill of sale or a lease), **valid photo identification**, proof of insurance for that vehicle, and the keys. Whoever drives the car out of the lot generally needs **a valid license**.
- 4 Track the ticket as a separate matter.** The tow charge and the parking fine are two different items; paying one does not close the other. And a violation here can arise from **two different rules**: calendar parking and a declared emergency. **We could not confirm which office the fine is paid to**; read the payment address off the paper and do not pay on an assumption.

A CAR LEFT BEHIND AFTER A DETENTION: WE DO NOT CARRY THE NEIGHBOR'S RULE HERE

- The impound lot page of the City of Minneapolis says that **vehicles abandoned due to ICE detention are released to their owners or a representative at no cost**, against evidence of detention and proof of ownership. That is a valuable provision, **but it belongs to Minneapolis**.
- **Research could not confirm a counterpart in Crookston.** We are not saying there is none, we are saying **we did not find one**; do not plan around such a waiver.
- **The practical consequence: do not assume, ask.** The sentence is simple: is there a fee waiver or a payment arrangement for a vehicle that cannot be collected because of a detention. Ask for the answer in writing and note who you spoke to, the date and the time. Storage fees in this region generally run **per day**, so delaying that conversation costs money directly.
- **And do not conflate two things:** the Minneapolis provision is **a fee waiver**; it has no effect on the detention itself or its outcome. The vehicle side and the immigration side are two separate files.

One preparation specific to here: distance makes a tow expensive

In the metro, someone whose car is towed boards a light rail line and goes to the lot. Not here: **transit is a dial-a-ride that runs limited hours and does not run overnight**, so someone whose car goes at night waits for morning. The answer is two concrete preparations. First, save two numbers in your phone today: **218-281-5711** and **218-281-1232**. Second, make sure **at least one person** in your household holds the documents needed to collect a vehicle: **a notarized authorization** in the name of a relative or friend, that person's valid license, and a copy of the registration, kept somewhere reachable at home.

- 1 Look at the age of the car when you buy.** The tax follows value; a new car is expensive here on an annual basis.

- 2 **Call before the registration appointment** and ask about the identification number and the document list; this guide does not answer that question.
- 3 **Compare quotes on the coverage list**, not the premium, and ask three questions outright: if no score can be produced because I have no credit history, are you excluding credit as a factor; is interpretation tied to medical care inside the coverage; and is an accident across the border covered.
- 4 **Buy non-studded winter tires.** Studs are banned and the nonresident exception does not apply to someone who works or studies here.
- 5 **Put two dates in your calendar: November 14 and April 1.** For every night in between there is one question: what day of the month is it, odd or even.
- 6 **If an emergency is declared the rule changes completely** and you may not park anywhere, alleys included; on those nights put the car on private property.
- 7 **Sign up for the alert system** and follow at least one of the radio and newspaper channels. Not having received a notification is not an excuse.
- 8 **If there is no driveway or garage, the street is not a permanent solution.** Ask for a parking space in the lease; a car towed twice in one winter usually costs more than a seasonal parking space.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY FOR CROOKSTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Crookston and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English, and consultations run remotely. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669
Office: 321 N Central Expy, Ste 206, McKinney, TX 75070

Attorney responsible for this guide: Asim Clinch, Esq., Clinch Law Firm P.C. Attorney Asim Clinch is a member of the Missouri Bar (No. 76084) and practices U.S. federal immigration law.

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