

Milwaukee Police Department Standard Operating Procedure
Section 660 – VEHICLE PURSUITS

B. Vehicle pursuits are justified only when the police member knows or has probable cause to believe:

1. The occupant(s) suspect has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a violent felony (i.e. armed robbery, recklessly endangering safety, and other crimes against a person in which violence is an element to the felony offense); or
2. The occupant(s) presents a clear and immediate threat to the safety of others and therefore the necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger created by the vehicle pursuit.
3. A “refusal to stop” pursuit, as previously defined within this policy, may be initiated and maintained for a lesser offense than described above. However, once the “refusal to stop” pursuit becomes an “eluding / fleeing” pursuit, as previously defined within this policy, justification for the pursuit must meet at least one of the criteria (subsection 1 or 2) above.

Note: “Eluding / Fleeing” pursuits are NOT authorized solely for traffic infractions, ordinance violations, misdemeanors, non-violent felonies, or based upon the mere fact that the vehicle is fleeing.