

## **CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF MORAINE**

### **PART THREE - TRAFFIC CODE**

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#### **TITLE ONE - Administration**

- Chap. 301. Definitions.
- Chap. 303. Enforcement and Penalty.
- Chap. 305. Traffic Control.
- Chap. 307. Impounding Vehicles.

#### **TITLE THREE - Streets and Traffic Control Devices**

- Chap. 311. Street Obstructions and Special Uses.
- Chap. 313. Traffic Control Devices.

#### **TITLE FIVE - Vehicles**

- Chap. 331. Operation Generally.
- Chap. 333. OVI; Willful Misconduct; Speed.
- Chap. 335. Licensing; Accidents.
- Chap. 337. Safety and Equipment.
- Chap. 339. Commercial and Heavy Vehicles.
- Chap. 341. Commercial Drivers.

#### **TITLE SEVEN - Parking**

- Chap. 351. Parking Generally.
- Chap. 353. Junk and Abandoned Vehicles.

#### **TITLE NINE - Pedestrians, Bicycles and Motorcycles**

- Chap. 371. Pedestrians.
- Chap. 373. Bicycles and Motorcycles.
- Chap. 375. Snowmobiles, Off-Highway Motorcycles and All Purpose Vehicles.

#### **APPENDICES**

- I Through Streets.
- II One-Way Streets.
- III Prohibited and Limited Parking.
- IV Restricted Lane Intersections.
- V Traffic Control Signals.
- VI No Passing Zones.
- VII Stop Intersections.
- VIII Speed Zones.
- IX School Zones.
- X Restricted Turn Intersections.
- XI Crosswalks and Walkways.
- XII Prohibited Right Turn on Red Intersections.



## CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF MORAINE

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#### TITLE ONE - Administration

- Chap. 301. Definitions.  
 Chap. 303. Enforcement, Impounding and Penalty.  
 Chap. 305. Traffic Control.  
 Chap. 307. Impounding Vehicles.

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#### CHAPTER 301 Definitions

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| <p><b>301.01</b> Meaning of words and phrases.<br/> <b>301.02</b> Agricultural tractor.<br/> <b>301.03</b> Alley.<br/> <b>301.031</b> Beacon; hybrid beacon.<br/> <b>301.04</b> Bicycle; motorized bicycle; moped.<br/> <b>301.05</b> Bus.<br/> <b>301.06</b> Business district.<br/> <b>301.07</b> Commercial tractor.<br/> <b>301.08</b> Controlled-access highway.<br/> <b>301.09</b> Crosswalk.<br/> <b>301.10</b> Driver or operator.<br/> <b>301.11</b> Emergency vehicle.<br/> <b>301.12</b> Explosives.<br/> <b>301.13</b> Expressway.<br/> <b>301.14</b> Flammable liquid.<br/> <b>301.15</b> Freeway.<br/> <b>301.16</b> Gross weight.<br/> <b>301.161</b> Highway maintenance vehicle.<br/> <b>301.162</b> Highway traffic signal.<br/> <b>301.17</b> Intersection.<br/> <b>301.18</b> Laned street or highway.<br/> <b>301.181</b> Median.<br/> <b>301.19</b> Motorcycle.<br/> <b>301.20</b> Motor vehicle.<br/> <b>301.201</b> Operate.<br/> <b>301.21</b> Park or parking.<br/> <b>301.22</b> Pedestrian.<br/> <b>301.23</b> Person.<br/> <b>301.24</b> Pole trailer.<br/> <b>301.25</b> Police officer.<br/> <b>301.251</b> Predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense.</p> | <p><b>301.26</b> Private road or driveway.<br/> <b>301.27</b> Public safety vehicle.<br/> <b>301.28</b> Railroad.<br/> <b>301.29</b> Railroad sign or signal.<br/> <b>301.30</b> Railroad train.<br/> <b>301.31</b> Residence district.<br/> <b>301.32</b> Right of way.<br/> <b>301.321</b> Road service vehicle.<br/> <b>301.33</b> Roadway.<br/> <b>301.34</b> Safety zone.<br/> <b>301.35</b> School bus.<br/> <b>301.36</b> Semitrailer.<br/> <b>301.361</b> Shared-use path.<br/> <b>301.37</b> Sidewalk.<br/> <b>301.38</b> State route.<br/> <b>301.39</b> Stop (when required).<br/> <b>301.40</b> Stopping or standing.<br/> <b>301.41</b> Stop intersection.<br/> <b>301.42</b> Street or highway; arterial street.<br/> <b>301.43</b> Through street or highway.<br/> <b>301.44</b> Thruway.<br/> <b>301.45</b> Traffic.<br/> <b>301.46</b> Traffic control device.<br/> <b>301.47</b> Traffic control signal.<br/> <b>301.48</b> Trailer.<br/> <b>301.49</b> Truck.<br/> <b>301.50</b> Urban district.<br/> <b>301.51</b> Vehicle.<br/> <b>301.52</b> Wheelchair, motorized.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
Funeral procession defined - see TRAF. 331.24  
Street racing defined - see TRAF. 333.07  
Studded tire defined - see TRAF. 339.11  
Blind person defined - see TRAF. 371.02  
Snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle and all purpose vehicle  
defined - see TRAF. 375.01  
School zones defined - see TRAF. 333.03(b)

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**301.01 MEANING OF WORDS AND PHRASES.**

The following words and phrases when used in this Traffic Code, except as otherwise provided, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this chapter.

**301.02 AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR.**

"Agricultural tractor" means every self-propelling vehicle designed or used for drawing other vehicles or wheeled machinery but having no provision for carrying loads independently of such other vehicles, and used principally for agricultural purposes. (ORC 4511.01(J))

**301.03 ALLEY.**

"Alley" means a street or highway intended to provide access to the rear or side of lots or buildings in urban districts and not intended for the purpose of through vehicular traffic, and includes any street or highway that has been declared an "alley" by Council. (ORC 4511.01(XX))

**301.031 BEACON; HYBRID BEACON.**

(a) "Beacon" means a highway traffic signal with one or more signal sections that operate in a flashing mode. (ORC 4511.01(KKK))

(b) "Hybrid beacon" means a type of beacon that is intentionally placed in a dark mode between periods of operation where no indications are displayed and, when in operation, displays both steady and flashing traffic control signal indications. (ORC 4511.01(LLL))

**301.04 BICYCLE; MOTORIZED BICYCLE; MOPED.**

(a) "Bicycle" means every device, other than a device that is designed solely for use as a play vehicle by a child, that is propelled solely by human power, upon which a person may ride and that has two or more wheels any of which is more than fourteen inches in diameter. (ORC 4511.01(G))

(b) "Motorized bicycle" or "moped" means any vehicle having either two tandem wheels or one wheel in the front and two wheels in the rear, that may be pedaled and that is equipped with a helper motor of not more than fifty cubic centimeters piston displacement which produces no more than one brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of no greater than twenty miles per hour on a level surface. (ORC 4511.01(H))

**301.05 BUS.**

"Bus" means every motor vehicle designed for carrying more than nine passengers and used for the transportation of persons other than in a ridesharing arrangement as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01, and every motor vehicle, automobile for hire or funeral car, other than a taxicab or motor vehicle used in a ridesharing arrangement, designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation. (ORC 4511.01(L))

**301.06 BUSINESS DISTRICT.**

"Business district" means the territory fronting upon a street or highway, including the street or highway, between successive intersections where fifty percent or more of the frontage between such successive intersections is occupied by buildings in use for business, or where fifty percent or more of the frontage for a distance of 300 feet or more is occupied by buildings in use for business, and the character of such territory is indicated by official traffic control devices. (ORC 4511.01(NN))

**301.07 COMMERCIAL TRACTOR.**

"Commercial tractor" means every motor vehicle having motive power designed or used for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry any load thereon, or designed or used for drawing other vehicles while carrying a portion of such other vehicles, or the load thereon, or both. (ORC 4511.01(I))

**301.08 CONTROLLED-ACCESS HIGHWAY.**

"Controlled-access highway" means every street or highway in respect to which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right or access to or from the same except at such points only and in such manner as may be determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such street or highway. (ORC 4511.01(CC))

**301.09 CROSSWALK.**

"Crosswalk" means:

- (a) That part of a roadway at intersections ordinarily included within the real or projected prolongation of property lines and curb lines or, in the absence of curbs, the edges of the traversable roadway;
  - (b) Any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere, distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface;
  - (c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) hereof, there shall not be a crosswalk where authorized signs have been placed indicating no crossing.
- (ORC 4511.01(LL))

**301.10 DRIVER OR OPERATOR.**

"Driver" or "operator" means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle. (ORC 4511.01(Y))

**301.11 EMERGENCY VEHICLE.**

"Emergency vehicle" means emergency vehicles of municipal, township or county departments or public utility corporations when identified as such as required by law, the Ohio Director of Public Safety or local authorities, and motor vehicles when commandeered by a police officer. (ORC 4511.01(D))

**301.12 EXPLOSIVES.**

"Explosives" means any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that is intended for the purpose of producing an explosion that contains any oxidizing and combustible units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities or packing that an ignition by fire, by friction, by concussion, by percussion or by a detonator of any part of the compound or mixture may cause such a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive effects on contiguous objects, or of destroying life or limb.

Manufactured articles shall not be held to be explosives when the individual units contain explosives in such limited quantities, of such nature or in such packing, that it is impossible to procure a simultaneous or a destructive explosion of such units, to the injury of life, limb or property by fire, by friction, by concussion, by percussion or by a detonator, such as fixed ammunition for small arms, firecrackers or safety fuse matches. (ORC 4511.01(T))

**301.13 EXPRESSWAY.**

"Expressway" means a divided arterial highway for through traffic with full or partial control of access with an excess of fifty percent of all crossroads separated in grade. (ORC 4511.01(ZZ))

**301.14 FLAMMABLE LIQUID.**

"Flammable liquid" means any liquid that has a flash point of seventy degrees Fahrenheit, or less, as determined by a tagliabue or equivalent closed cup test device. (ORC 4511.01(U))

**301.15 FREEWAY.**

"Freeway" means a divided multi-lane highway for through traffic with all crossroads separated in grade and with full control of access. (ORC 4511.01(YY))

**301.16 GROSS WEIGHT.**

"Gross weight" means the weight of a vehicle plus the weight of any load thereon. (ORC 4511.01(V))

**301.161 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE VEHICLE.**

"Highway maintenance vehicle" means a vehicle used in snow and ice removal or road surface maintenance, including a snow plow, traffic line striper, road sweeper, mowing machine, asphalt distributing vehicle, or other such vehicle designed for use in specific highway maintenance activities. (ORC 4511.01(QQQ))

**301.162 HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SIGNAL.**

"Highway traffic signal" means a power-operated traffic control device by which traffic is warned or directed to take some specific action. "Highway traffic signal" does not include a power-operated sign, steadily illuminated pavement markers, warning light, or steady burning electric lamp. (ORC 4511.01(MMM))

**301.17 INTERSECTION.**

"Intersection" means:

- (a) The area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines, or, if none, the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways that join one another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways that join at any other angle might come into conflict. The junction of an alley or driveway with a roadway or highway does not constitute an intersection unless the roadway or highway at the junction is controlled by a traffic control device.
- (b) If a highway includes two roadways that are thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting highway constitutes a separate intersection. If both intersecting highways include two roadways thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of any two roadways of such highways constitutes a separate intersection.

- (c) At a location controlled by a traffic control signal, regardless of the distance between the separate intersections as described in subsection (b) of this section:
- (1) If a stop line, yield line, or crosswalk has not been designated on the roadway within the median between the separate intersections, the two intersections and the roadway and median constitute one intersection.
  - (2) Where a stop line, yield line, or crosswalk line is designated on the roadway on the intersection approach, the area within the crosswalk and any area beyond the designated stop line or yield line constitute part of the intersection.
  - (3) Where a crosswalk is designated on a roadway on the departure from the intersection, the intersection includes the area that extends to the far side of the crosswalk. (ORC 4511.01(KK))

**301.18 LANED STREET OR HIGHWAY.**

"Laned street or highway" means a street or highway the roadway of which is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.  
(ORC 4511.01(GG))

**301.181 MEDIAN.**

"Median" means the area between two roadways of a divided highway, measured from edge of traveled way to edge of traveled way, but excluding turn lanes. The width of a median may be different between intersections, between interchanges, and at opposite approaches of the same intersection. (ORC 4511.01(NNN))

**301.19 MOTORCYCLE.**

"Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle, other than a tractor, having a seat or saddle for the use of the operator and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including but not limited to, motor vehicles known as "motor-driven cycle," "motor scooter," "autocycle," "cab-enclosed motorcycle" or "motorcycle" without regard to weight or brake horsepower. (ORC 4511.01(C))

**301.20 MOTOR VEHICLE.**

"Motor vehicle" means every vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power, except motorized bicycles, road rollers, traction engines, power shovels, power cranes and other equipment used in construction work and not designed for or employed in general highway transportation, hole-digging machinery, well-drilling machinery, ditch-digging machinery, farm machinery, and trailers designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a street or highway for a distance of no more than ten miles and at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less.  
(ORC 4511.01(B))

**301.201 OPERATE.**

"Operate" means to cause or have caused movement of a vehicle.  
(ORC 4511.01(HHH))

**301.21 PARK OR PARKING.**

"Park or parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers.

**301.22 PEDESTRIAN.**

"Pedestrian" means any natural person afoot. (ORC 4511.01(X))

**301.23 PERSON.**

"Person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association or corporation. (ORC 4511.01(W))

**301.24 POLE TRAILER.**

"Pole trailer" means every trailer or semitrailer attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach, pole or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle, and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregular shaped loads such as poles, pipes or structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connection. (ORC 4511.01(O))

**301.25 POLICE OFFICER.**

"Police officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic, or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations. (ORC 4511.01(Z))

**301.251 PREDICATE MOTOR VEHICLE OR TRAFFIC OFFENSE.**

"Predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense" means any of the following:

- (a) A violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.03, 4511.051, 4511.12, 4511.132, 4511.16, 4511.20, 4511.201, 4511.21, 4511.211, 4511.213, 4511.22, 4511.23, 4511.25, 4511.26, 4511.27, 4511.28, 4511.29, 4511.30, 4511.31, 4511.32, 4511.33, 4511.34, 4511.35, 4511.36, 4511.37, 4511.38, 4511.39, 4511.40, 4511.41, 4511.42, 4511.43, 4511.431, 4511.432, 4511.44, 4511.441, 4511.451, 4511.452, 4511.46, 4511.47, 4511.48, 4511.481, 4511.49, 4511.50, 4511.511, 4511.53, 4511.54, 4511.55, 4511.56, 4511.57, 4511.58, 4511.59, 4511.60, 4511.61, 4511.64, 4511.66, 4511.661, 4511.68, 4511.70, 4511.701, 4511.71, 4511.711, 4511.712, 4511.713, 4511.72, 4511.73, 4511.763, 4511.771, 4511.78 or 4511.84;
- (b) A violation of division (A)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4511.17, divisions (A) to (D) of Ohio R.C. 4511.51, or division (A) of Ohio R.C. 4511.74;
- (c) A violation of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.01 to 4511.76 for which no penalty otherwise is provided in the section that contains the provision violated;
- (d) A violation of a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any section or provision set forth or described in subsection (a) to (c) of this section. (ORC 4511.01(III))

**301.26 PRIVATE ROAD OR DRIVEWAY.**

(a) "Private road or driveway" means every way or place in private ownership used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner but not by other persons. (ORC 4511.01(DD))

(b) "Private road open to public travel" means a private toll road or road, including any adjacent sidewalks that generally run parallel to the road, within a shopping center, airport, sports arena, or other similar business or recreation facility that is privately owned but where the public is allowed to travel without access restrictions. "Private road open to public travel" includes a gated toll road but does not include a road within a private gated property where access is restricted at all times, a parking area, a driving aisle within a parking area, or a private grade crossing. (ORC 4511.01(OOO))



**301.27 PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE.**

"Public safety vehicle" means any of the following:

- (a) Ambulances, including private ambulance companies under contract to a municipal corporation, township or county and private ambulances and transport vehicles bearing license plates issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.49;
- (b) Motor vehicles used by public law enforcement officers or other persons sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the State or the Municipality;
- (c) Any motor vehicle when properly identified as required by the Ohio Director of Public Safety, when used in response to fire emergency calls or to provide emergency medical service to ill or injured persons, and when operated by a duly qualified person who is a member of a volunteer rescue service or a volunteer fire department, and who is on duty pursuant to the rules or directives of that service. The Ohio Fire Marshal shall be designated by the Ohio Director of Public Safety as the certifying agency for all public safety vehicles described in this subsection (c);
- (d) Vehicles used by fire departments, including motor vehicles when used by volunteer fire fighters responding to emergency calls in the fire department service when identified as required by the Ohio Director of Public Safety. Any vehicle used to transport or provide emergency medical service to an ill or injured person, when certified as a public safety vehicle, shall be considered a public safety vehicle when transporting an ill or injured person to a hospital regardless of whether such vehicle has already passed a hospital. (ORC 4511.01(E))
- (e) Vehicles used by the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enforcement Unit for the enforcement of orders and rules of the Public Utilities Commission as specified in Ohio R.C. 5503.34.

**301.28 RAILROAD.**

"Railroad" means a carrier of persons or property operating upon rails placed principally on a private right of way. (ORC 4511.01(P))

**301.29 RAILROAD SIGN OR SIGNAL.**

"Railroad sign or signal" means any sign, signal or device erected by authority of a public body or official or by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train. (ORC 4511.01(SS))

**301.30 RAILROAD TRAIN.**

"Railroad train" means a steam engine, or an electric or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated by a railroad. (ORC 4511.01(Q))

**301.31 RESIDENCE DISTRICT.**

"Residence district" means the territory, not comprising a business district, fronting on a street or highway, including the street or highway, where, for a distance of 300 feet or more, the frontage is improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business. (ORC 4511.01(OO))

**301.32 RIGHT OF WAY.**

"Right of way" means either of the following, as the context requires:

- (a) The right of a vehicle or pedestrian to proceed uninterruptedly in a lawful manner in the direction in which it or the individual is moving in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian approaching from a different direction into its or the individual's path;

(b) A general term denoting land, property or the interest therein, usually in the configuration of a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes. When used in this context, right of way includes the roadway, shoulders or berm, ditch, and slopes extending to the right-of-way limits under the control of the State or local authority. (ORC 4511.01(UU))

**301.321 ROAD SERVICE VEHICLE.**

"Road service vehicle" means wreckers, utility repair vehicles, and state, county, and municipal service vehicles equipped with visual signals by means of flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights. (ORC 4511.01(JJJ))

**301.33 ROADWAY.**

"Roadway" means that portion of a street or highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, except the berm or shoulder. If a street or highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term "roadway" means any such roadway separately but not all such roadways collectively. (ORC 4511.01(EE))

**301.34 SAFETY ZONE.**

"Safety zone" means the area or space officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and protected or marked or indicated by adequate signs as to be plainly visible at all times. (ORC 4511.01(MM))

**301.35 SCHOOL BUS.**

"School bus" means every bus designed for carrying more than nine passengers that is owned by a public, private or governmental agency or institution of learning and operated for the transportation of children to or from a school session or a school function, or owned by a private person and operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from a school session or a school function; provided "school bus" does not include a bus operated by a municipally owned transportation system, a mass transit company operating exclusively within the territorial limits of the Municipality, or within such limits and the territorial limits of municipal corporations immediately contiguous to the Municipality, nor a common passenger carrier certified by the Public Utilities Commission unless such bus is devoted exclusively to the transportation of children to and from a school session or a school function, and "school bus" does not include a van or bus used by a licensed child day-care center or type A family day-care home to transport children from the child day-care center or type A family day-care home to a school if the van or bus does not have more than fifteen children in the van or bus at any time. "Child day-care center" and "type A family day-care home" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 5104.01. (ORC 4511.01(F), (FFF))

**301.36 SEMITRAILER.**

"Semitrailer" means every vehicle designed or used for carrying persons or property with another and separate motor vehicle so that in operation a part of its own weight or that of its load, or both, rests upon and is carried by another vehicle. (ORC 4511.01(N))

**301.361 SHARED-USE PATH.**

"Shared-use path" means a bikeway outside the traveled way and physically separate from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent alignment. A shared-use path also may be used by pedestrians, including skaters, joggers, users of manual and motorized wheelchairs, and other authorized motorized and non-motorized users. (ORC 4511.01(PPP))

**301.37 SIDEWALK.**

"Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb lines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for the use of pedestrians. (ORC 4511.01(FF))

**301.38 STATE ROUTE.**

"State route" means every highway that is designated with an official State route number and so marked. (ORC 4511.01(JJ))

**301.39 STOP (WHEN REQUIRED).**

"Stop" when required means a complete cessation of movement.

**301.40 STOPPING OR STANDING.**

(a) "Stop or stopping" when prohibited means any halting of a vehicle, even momentarily, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control device.

(b) "Stand or standing" means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.

**301.41 STOP INTERSECTION.**

"Stop intersection" means any intersection at one or more entrances of which stop signs are erected. (ORC 4511.01(BBB))

**301.42 STREET OR HIGHWAY; ARTERIAL STREET.**

(a) "Street" or "highway" are synonymous and mean the entire width between the boundary lines of every way open to the use of the public as a thoroughfare for purposes of vehicular travel. (ORC 4511.01(BB))

(b) "Arterial street" means any United States or State numbered route, controlled access highway or other major radial or circumferential street or highway designated by local authorities within their respective jurisdictions as part of a major arterial system of streets or highways. (ORC 4511.01(CCC))

**301.43 THROUGH STREET OR HIGHWAY.**

"Through street or highway" means every street or highway as provided in Section 313.02. (ORC 4511.01(HH))

**301.44 THRUWAY.**

"Thruway" means a through street or highway whose entire roadway is reserved for through traffic and on which roadway parking is prohibited. (ORC 4511.01(AAA))

**301.45 TRAFFIC.**

"Traffic" means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles and other devices, either singly or together, while using for purposes of travel any street or highway or private road open to public travel. (ORC 4511.01(TT))

**301.46 TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE.**

"Traffic control device" means a flagger, sign, signal, marking, or other device used to regulate, warn or guide traffic, placed on, over, or adjacent to a street, highway, private road open to public travel, pedestrian facility, or shared-use path by authority of a public agency or official having jurisdiction, or, in the case of a private road open to public travel, by authority of the private owner or private official having jurisdiction. (ORC 4511.01(QQ))

**301.47 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL.**

"Traffic control signal" means any highway traffic signal by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and permitted to proceed.  
(ORC 4511.01(RR))

**301.48 TRAILER.**

"Trailer" means every vehicle designed or used for carrying persons or property wholly on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, including any such vehicle when formed by or operated as a combination of a semitrailer and a vehicle of the dolly type, such as that commonly known as a trailer dolly, a vehicle used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials between a local place of storage or supply and the farm when drawn or towed on a street or highway at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour and a vehicle designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a street or highway for a distance of more than ten miles or at a speed of more than twenty-five miles per hour.  
(ORC 4511.01(M))

**301.49 TRUCK.**

"Truck" means every motor vehicle, except trailers and semitrailers, designed and used to carry property. (ORC 4511.01(K))

**301.50 URBAN DISTRICT.**

"Urban district" means the territory contiguous to and including any street or highway which is built up with structures devoted to business, industry or dwelling houses situated at intervals of less than 100 feet for distance of a quarter of a mile or more, and the character of such territory is indicated by official traffic control devices. (ORC 4511.01(PP))

**301.51 VEHICLE.**

"Vehicle" means every device, including a motorized bicycle, in, upon or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a street or highway, except that "vehicle" does not include any motorized wheelchair, electric personal assistive mobility device, or any device, other than a bicycle, that is moved by human power. (ORC 4511.01(A))

**301.52 WHEELCHAIR, MOTORIZED.**

"Motorized wheelchair" means any self-propelled vehicle designed for, and used by, a handicapped person and that is incapable of a speed in excess of eight miles per hour.  
(ORC 4511.01(EEE))

**CHAPTER 303**  
**Enforcement, Impounding and Penalty**

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| <p><b>303.01</b> Compliance with lawful order of police officer; fleeing.</p> <p><b>303.02</b> Traffic direction in emergencies; obedience to school guard.</p> <p><b>303.03</b> Officer may remove ignition key.</p> <p><b>303.04</b> Road workers, motor vehicles and equipment excepted.</p> <p><b>303.041</b> Emergency, public safety and coroner's vehicles exempt.</p> <p><b>303.05</b> Application to persons riding, driving animals upon roadway.</p> <p><b>303.06</b> Freeway use prohibited by pedestrians, bicycles and animals.</p> | <p><b>303.07</b> Application to drivers of government vehicles.</p> <p><b>303.08</b> Contempt of court; failure to appear.</p> <p><b>303.09</b> Prohibited bikeway use.</p> <p><b>303.10</b> Providing false information to police officer.</p> <p><b>303.99</b> General Traffic Code penalties.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
Disposition of unclaimed vehicles - see Ohio R.C. 737.32, 4513.62 et seq.  
Citations for minor misdemeanors - see Ohio R.C. 2935.26 et seq.  
Power of trial court of record to suspend or revoke license for certain violations - see Ohio R.C. 4507.16, 4507.34  
State point system suspension - see Ohio R.C. 4507.40  
Uniform application of Ohio Traffic Law - see Ohio R.C. 4511.06  
Marking motor vehicles used by traffic officers - see Ohio R.C. 4549.13  
Distinctive uniform required for traffic officers - see Ohio R.C. 4549.15  
Exceptions for emergency or public safety vehicles - see TRAF. 331.20, 333.06

**303.01 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWFUL ORDER OF POLICE OFFICER; FLEEING.**

(a) No person shall fail to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer invested with authority to direct, control or regulate traffic.

(b) No person shall operate a motor vehicle so as willfully to elude or flee a police officer after receiving a visible or audible signal from a police officer to bring the person's motor vehicle to a stop.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Refer to Ohio R.C. 2921.331 for filing charges under subsection (b) hereof since the jury or judge as trier of fact may determine the violation to be a felony.)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer. A violation of subsection (a) is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Except as hereinafter provided, a violation of subsection (b) is a misdemeanor of the first degree. A violation of subsection (b) is a felony if the jury or judge as trier of fact finds any one of the following by proof beyond a reasonable doubt:

- (1) In committing the offense, the offender was fleeing immediately after the commission of a felony;
- (2) The operation of the motor vehicle by the offender was a proximate cause of serious physical harm to persons or property;
- (3) The operation of the motor vehicle by the offender caused a substantial risk of serious physical harm to persons or property.

(d) In addition to any other sanction imposed for a violation of subsection (a) of this section or a misdemeanor violation of subsection (b) of this section, the court shall impose a class five suspension from the range specified in Ohio R.C. 4510.02(A)(5). If the offender previously has been found guilty of an offense under this section, in addition to any other sanction imposed for the offense, the court shall impose a class one suspension as described in division (A)(1) of that section. The court may grant limited driving privileges to the offender on a suspension imposed for a misdemeanor violation of this section as set forth in Ohio R.C. 4510.021. No judge shall suspend the first three years of suspension under a class two suspension of an offender's license, permit or privilege required by this division on any portion of the suspension under a class one suspension of an offender's license, permit, or privilege required by this subsection.  
(ORC 2921.331)

### **303.02 TRAFFIC DIRECTION IN EMERGENCIES; OBEDIENCE TO SCHOOL GUARD.**

(a) Police officers shall direct or regulate traffic in accordance with the provisions of this Traffic Code, provided that, in the event of fire or other emergency or to expedite traffic or safeguard pedestrians, they are authorized to direct traffic as conditions may require notwithstanding the provisions of this Traffic Code. Firemen, when at the scene of a fire, may direct or assist the police in directing traffic thereat or in the immediate vicinity. The direction of traffic may be by word or audible signal, by gesture or visible signal or by any combination thereof. No person shall fail to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer or fireman issued pursuant to this section.

(b) No person shall fail to comply with any lawful order or direction of any school crossing guard invested with authority to direct, control or regulate traffic in the vicinity of the school to which such guard may be assigned.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **303.03 OFFICER MAY REMOVE IGNITION KEY.**

A law enforcement officer may remove the ignition key left in the ignition switch of an unlocked and unattended motor vehicle parked on a street or highway, or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking. The officer removing such key shall place notification upon the vehicle detailing his name and badge number, the place where such key may be reclaimed and the procedure for reclaiming such key. The key shall be returned to the owner of the motor vehicle upon presentation of proof of ownership.  
(ORC 4549.05)

**303.04 ROAD WORKERS, MOTOR VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT EXCEPTED.**

(a) The provisions of this Traffic Code do not apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the surface of a highway within an area designated by traffic control devices, but apply to such persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

(b) The driver of a highway maintenance vehicle owned by this state or any political subdivision of this state, while the driver is engaged in the performance of official duties upon a street or highway, provided the highway maintenance vehicle is equipped with flashing lights and such other markings as are required by law, and such lights are in operation when the driver and vehicle are so engaged, shall be exempt from criminal prosecution for violations of Sections 331.01 to 331.04, 331.06 to 331.08, 331.31, 333.04, 337.01 and Ohio R.C. 4511.66 and 5577.01 to 5577.09.

- (c) (1) This section does not exempt a driver of a highway maintenance vehicle from civil liability arising from a violation of Sections 331.01 to 331.04, 331.06 to 331.08, 331.31, 333.04, 337.01 or Ohio R.C. 4511.66 or 5577.01 to 5577.09.
- (2) This section does not exempt a driver of a vehicle who is not a state employee and who is engaged in the transport of highway maintenance equipment from criminal liability for a violation of Ohio R.C. 5577.01 to 5577.09.

(d) As used in this section, “engaged in the performance of official duties” includes driving a highway maintenance vehicle to and from the manufacturer or vehicle maintenance provider and transporting a highway maintenance vehicle, equipment, or materials to and from a work location. (ORC 4511.04)

**303.041 EMERGENCY, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORONER’S VEHICLES EXEMPT.**

(a) Ohio R.C. 4511.12, 4511.13, 4511.131, 4511.132, 4511.14, 4511.202, 4511.21, 4511.211, 4511.22, 4511.23, 4511.25, 4511.26, 4511.27, 4511.28, 4511.29, 4511.30, 4511.31, 4511.32, 4511.33, 4511.34, 4511.35, 4511.36, 4511.37, 4511.38, 4511.39, 4511.40, 4511.41, 4511.42, 4511.43, 4511.431, 4511.432, 4511.44, 4511.441, 4511.57, 4511.58, 4511.59, 4511.60, 4511.61, 4511.62, 4511.66, 4511.68, 4511.681 and 4511.69 and all sections of this Traffic Code or other municipal ordinances that are substantially equivalent to the sections listed above, do not apply to the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle if the emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle is responding to an emergency call, is equipped with and displaying at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and if the driver of the vehicle is giving an audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle or bell. This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway. (ORC 4511.041)

(b) Ohio R.C. 4511.25, 4511.26, 4511.27, 4511.28, 4511.29, 4511.30, 4511.31, 4511.32, 4511.33, 4511.35, 4511.36, 4511.37, 4511.38 and 4511.66, and all sections of this Traffic Code or other municipal ordinances that are substantially equivalent to the sections listed above, do not apply to a coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner's investigator operating a motor vehicle in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4513.171. This section does not relieve a coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner's investigator operating a motor vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway. (ORC 4511.042)

### **303.05 APPLICATION TO PERSONS RIDING, DRIVING ANIMALS UPON ROADWAY.**

Every person riding, driving or leading an animal upon a roadway shall be subject to the provisions of this Traffic Code applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except those provisions of such sections which by their nature are inapplicable. (ORC 4511.05)

### **303.06 FREEWAY USE PROHIBITED BY PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES AND ANIMALS.**

- (a) No person, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall:
- (1) As a pedestrian, occupy any space within the limits of the right-of-way of a freeway, except: in a rest area; on a facility that is separated from the roadway and shoulders of the freeway and is designed and appropriately marked for pedestrian use; in the performance of public works or official duties; as a result of an emergency caused by an accident or breakdown of a motor vehicle; or to obtain assistance;
  - (2) Occupy any space within the limits of the right of way of a freeway, with: an animal-drawn vehicle; a ridden or led animal; herded animals; a pushcart; a bicycle, except on a facility that is separated from the roadway and shoulders of the freeway and is designed and appropriately marked for bicycle use; a bicycle with motor attached; a motor driven cycle with a motor which produces not to exceed five brake horsepower; an agricultural tractor; farm machinery; except in the performance of public works or official duties.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.051)

### **303.07 APPLICATION TO DRIVERS OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES.**

The provisions of this Traffic Code applicable to the drivers of vehicles shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, any state or any political subdivision thereof, including this Municipality, except as may be otherwise provided by law and subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth with reference to authorized emergency and public safety vehicles.



**303.08 CONTEMPT OF COURT; FAILURE TO APPEAR.**

- (a) A person guilty of any of the following acts may be punished as provided herein:
- (1) Disobedience of, or resistance to, a lawful writ, process, order, rule, judgment or command of a court or an officer;
  - (2) Misbehavior of an officer of the court in the performance of his official duties, or in his official transactions;
  - (3) A failure to obey a subpoena duly served, or a refusal to be sworn or to answer as a witness, when lawfully required;
  - (4) The rescue or attempted rescue of a person or of property in the custody of an officer by virtue of a person recognized to appear as a witness in a court to appear in compliance with the terms of his recognizance;
  - (5) Misbehavior in the presence of or so near the court as to obstruct the administration of justice.

(b) No person shall fail to appear, without just cause, who has been summoned as provided in Ohio R.C. 2935.10(B) if personal service of the summons was had upon him.

(c) No person shall furnish a false name or other false information to a police officer who is issuing a traffic citation ticket to an alleged violation for a violation of the Moraine Traffic Code or Uniform Traffic Act of the State of Ohio, nor fail to respond to the order to appear by personal appearance at the date and hour specified thereon or by waiver payment within the time allowed by law.

(Ord. 466. Passed 11-10-77.)

(d) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**303.09 PROHIBITED BIKEWAY USE.**

(a) No person shall occupy within the limits of the bikeway through the City a motorized bicycle, bus, motorcycle or motor vehicle; except in the performance of public work or official duties on behalf of the City and/or the Miami Conservancy District.

(Ord. 612. Passed 6-11-81.)

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**303.10 PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION TO POLICE OFFICER.**

(a) No person shall knowingly present, display or orally communicate a false name, social security number or date of birth to a law enforcement officer who is in the process of issuing to the person a traffic ticket or complaint.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 4513.361)

**303.99 GENERAL TRAFFIC CODE PENALTIES.**

(a) General Misdemeanor Classifications. Whoever violates any provision of this Traffic Code for which violation no penalty is otherwise provided, is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

(b) Penalties. Whoever is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this Traffic Code shall be imprisoned for a definite term or fined, or both, which term of imprisonment and fine shall be fixed by the court as provided in this section.

<u>Classification of Misdemeanor</u>	<u>Maximum Term of Imprisonment</u>	<u>Maximum Fine</u>
First degree	180 days	\$1,000.00
Second degree	90 days	750.00
Third degree	60 days	500.00
Fourth degree	30 days	250.00
Minor (ORC 2929.24; 2929.28)	No imprisonment	150.00

**CHAPTER 305**  
**Traffic Control**

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| <p><b>305.01</b> General authority of City Manager.</p> <p><b>305.02</b> Ninety-day limitation of rules.</p> <p><b>305.03</b> Conformity with State Manual.</p> | <p><b>305.04</b> Traffic control map and file.</p> <p><b>305.05</b> Posting of signs and signals required.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

- Power to designate highway as included in a freeway, expressway or thruway - see Ohio R. C. 4511.011
- Power to enact local traffic regulations - see Ohio R. C. 4511.07, 4511.61
- Local traffic control devices - see Ohio R. C. 4511.11
- Alteration of prima-facie speed limits - see Ohio R. C. 4511.21, 4511.22(A), 4511.23
- Designation of through streets and erection of stop or yield signs - see Ohio R. C. 4511.65; TRAF. 313.02

**305.01 GENERAL AUTHORITY OF CITY MANAGER.**

The City Manager is empowered to make and enforce rules necessary to make effective the provisions of the Traffic Code and to make and enforce temporary rules to cover emergencies or special conditions.

**305.02 NINETY-DAY LIMITATION OF RULES.**

(a) The City Manager, upon the recommendation of the City Engineer and the Chief of Police, is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt, for a period not to exceed ninety days, the following rules:

- (1) The number, type and location of traffic-control devices and signs;
- (2) The regulation or prohibition of parking on streets, alleys, highways or public property;
- (3) The regulation of the right of way at intersections of streets, alleys and highways;
- (4) The regulation or prohibition of turns at intersections;
- (5) The creation, abolition and regulation of through routes and truck routes;
- (6) The creation, abolition and regulation of pedestrian crosswalk and safety zones;
- (7) The creation, abolition and regulation of bus loading and unloading zones and business loading zones;

- (8) The creation, abolition and regulation of traffic lanes and passing zones;
- (9) The regulation of the direction on streets, alleys and highways and the creation and abolition of one-way streets;
- (10) Such other subjects as may be provided by ordinance, which shall not be limited by the specific enumeration of subjects by this section.

(b) Such rules shall be issued in the manner and subject to the conditions and limitations as prescribed by ordinance of Council.

(c) Copies of such rules, when certified by the City Manager, shall be competent evidence in all courts.

(d) Any violation of the rules prescribed is unlawful and the violator of such rules, after the proper installation of such signs or other devices, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor which shall be classified as provided in Section 303.99.

#### **305.03 CONFORMITY WITH STATE MANUAL.**

All traffic control devices placed pursuant to the provisions of this Traffic Code shall conform to the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, as set forth in Ohio R.C. 4511.09.

#### **305.04 TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE.**

(a) By the authority granted the City Manager under Section 305.01 there is hereby established a traffic control map and file to show at all times the City's current regulations pertaining to controlled traffic zones,

(b) The control map and file shall be prepared and kept to date by the City Engineer and maintained in the office of the Engineer.

(c) The traffic control map shall include all the zones designated in Appendices to this Traffic Code.

(d) The traffic control file shall include:

- (1) Type of traffic control designation.
- (2) Complete description of the street or area affected.
- (3) Number of ordinance authorizing designation.
- (4) Effective date of ordinance.
- (5) Date proper signs and markings were erected.
- (6) Date recorded on traffic control map.
- (7) Date recommended by City Engineer and Chief of Police.

(e) The City Manager shall, within ninety days, submit to Council for approval any recommended traffic control change. All such approved amendments shall be recorded on the traffic control map and placed in the traffic control file.

#### **305.05 POSTING OF SIGNS AND SIGNALS REQUIRED.**

No provision of this chapter shall be effective until signs, signals, markings or other devices giving notice of such local traffic rules are posted upon or at the entrance to the street or part thereof affected, as may be most appropriate, so that in a proper position they are sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person.

**CHAPTER 307**  
**Impounding Vehicles**

<b>307.01 Authority to establish pounds.</b>	<b>307.06 Impounding fee and storage charges.</b>
<b>307.02 When vehicle may be impounded.</b>	<b>307.07 Removal from streets during period of emergency.</b>
<b>307.03 Other prosecutions.</b>	<b>307.08 Removing from streets under construction or improvement.</b>
<b>307.04 Damage caused by removal or storage.</b>	
<b>307.05 Expense of removal and storage.</b>	

**CROSS REFERENCES**

Disposition of unclaimed vehicles - see Ohio R. C. 737.32, 4513.62 et seq.  
Removal of vehicles obstructing traffic - see TRAF. 351. 01  
Impounding junk vehicles - see TRAF. 353.07

**307.01 AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH POUNDS.**

The City Manager is authorized to establish a vehicle pound.

**307.02 WHEN VEHICLE MAY BE IMPOUNDED.**

Any police officer is authorized to remove from the streets, sidewalks or public grounds:

- (a) Any vehicle parked, left standing or abandoned thereon, in violation of any of the specific terms of this Code;
- (b) Any vehicle which fails to comply with the provisions of this Code relative to equipment;
- (c) Any vehicle for which two or more citations for violation of this Code have been issued, where the owner or operator thereof has failed to respond to such citations;
- (d) Any vehicle which has been stolen, or from which the driver or operator has been removed due to illness, injury or intoxication;
- (e) Any vehicle operated by a person who is arrested for reckless operation;
- (f) Any vehicle which is wrecked or so disabled that it is not capable of being operated;
- (g) Any vehicle operated by a person who has failed to stop in case of an accident;
- (h) Any vehicle operated by a person while engaged in, or connected with, the commission of a felony;
- (i) Any vehicle operated by a person without an operator's license or during a period of revocation of such license;
- (j) Any vehicle operated by a person who refused to obey the instructions of any police officer after such person has been placed under arrest.

**307.03 OTHER PROSECUTIONS.**

The removal and storage of a vehicle impounded, and the payment of the expense of removal and storage of a vehicle so impounded shall not release the owner, chauffeur, driver or other person in charge of such vehicle from penalties imposed by violation of this Code or any other traffic ordinance or rule.

**307.04 DAMAGE CAUSED BY REMOVAL OR STORAGE.**

The removal by a police officer of a vehicle for any of the reasons mentioned in this Code shall be at the risk of the owner or person in charge thereof and there shall be no liability on the part of the City for any damage caused by such removal.

**307.05 EXPENSE OF REMOVAL AND STORAGE.**

Conveyance or towing of such vehicle and the expense of storage thereof, when removed to any impounding place designated by the City Manager, shall be borne by the owner, chauffeur, driver or other person in charge thereof and shall be paid before the vehicle is released from the pound. When the owner, chauffeur, driver or other person in charge of the vehicle impounded presents himself at the vehicle pound to claim the vehicle he shall furnish satisfactory proof of his right and title therefor, to the officer in charge of such pound.

**307.06 IMPOUNDING FEE AND STORAGE CHARGES.**

(a) No vehicle impounded under the provisions of this chapter shall be removed from such vehicle pound except upon the payment to the officer or other person in charge of such pound, by the owner, chauffeur, driver or the person in charge of such vehicle, of a towing service charge and a storage charge. However, no storage charge shall be made or collected for the first twelve hours such vehicle is held and impounded, and no storage or service charge shall be made or collected from the owner if such person was not the legal owner of such impounded vehicle on the date the impoundment took place.

(b) In case protest against the payment of such impounding fee is made by the claimant under oath and denying the violation, there shall be given to him by the officer in charge of such pound, upon the payment by the claimant of the sum of ten dollars (\$10. 00) and accrued storage charges, a receipt for the same, marked "Paid Under Protest."

(c) It shall thereupon be the duty of the officer having knowledge of the facts forthwith to file an affidavit in the Mayor' s Court, charging the owner, chauffeur, driver or other person in charge of such vehicle, with the violation of this Code or other traffic ordinances or rule on account of which the vehicle was impounded. However, in case such person was subsequently found not guilty by the court of committing the violation on account of which the vehicle of such person was impounded, it shall be the duty of the City Manager to cause to be refunded to such person a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) and accrued storage charges so paid under protest.

**307.07 REMOVAL FROM STREETS DURING PERIOD OF EMERGENCY.**

Whenever, in the opinion of the City Manager, there is an actual or threatened local emergency such as riot, fire, flood, excessive snowfall, other acts of God, common disaster or acts of the enemy, the City Manager may require the removal of motor vehicles parked upon the affected streets of the City. The City Manager shall inform the public of the aforementioned conditions through reasonable and usual methods of communication, If the owner or operator of a vehicle does not remove it within a reasonable time, the vehicle may be removed by the Police Department.

**307.08 REMOVING FROM STREETS UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT.**

The City Manager is authorized to require the removal of vehicles from areas where construction or improvements are or will be in process within the succeeding twenty-four hour period. The City Manager shall inform the public of the aforementioned conditions through reasonable and usual methods of communication. If the owner or operator of the vehicle does not remove it within a reasonable time, the vehicle may be removed by the Police Department.





TITLE THREE - Streets and Traffic Control Devices  
Chap. 311. Street Obstructions and Special Uses.  
Chap. 313. Traffic Control Devices.

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**CHAPTER 311**  
**Street Obstructions and Special Uses**

**311.01 Placing injurious material  
or obstruction in street.**  
**311.02 Parades and assemblages.**

**311.03 Toy vehicles on streets.**

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional history for similar State law  
Power to regulate processions or assemblages - see Ohio R.C.  
4511.07(C)  
Dropping, sifting and leaking loads - see TRAF. 339.08

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**311.01 PLACING INJURIOUS MATERIAL OR OBSTRUCTION IN  
STREET.**

(a) No person shall place or knowingly drop upon any part of a street, highway or alley any tacks, bottles, wire, glass, nails or other articles which may damage or injure any person, vehicle or animal traveling along or upon such street, except such substances that may be placed upon the roadway by proper authority for the repair or construction thereof.

(b) Any person who drops or permits to be dropped or thrown upon any street any noxious, destructive or injurious material shall immediately remove the same.

(c) Any person authorized to remove a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a street shall remove any glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the street from such vehicle.

(d) No person shall place any obstruction in or upon a street without proper authority.

(e) No person, with intent to cause physical harm to a person or vehicle, shall place or knowingly drop upon any part of a highway, lane, road, street or alley any tacks, bottles, wire, glass, nails or other articles which may damage or injure any person, vehicle or animal traveling along or upon such highway, except such substances that may be placed upon the roadway by proper authority for the repair or construction thereof.

- (f) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (e) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4511.74)

### **311.02 PARADES AND ASSEMBLAGES.**

(a) No person, group of persons or organization shall conduct or participate in any parade, assemblage or procession other than a funeral procession upon any street or highway, or block off any street or highway area, without first obtaining a permit from the Police Chief.

Applications for such permits shall be made on such forms as may be prescribed and shall contain such information as is reasonably necessary to a fair determination of whether a permit should be issued. Applications shall be filed not less than five days before the time intended for such parade, procession or assemblage.

The permit may be refused or cancelled if:

- (1) The time, place, size or conduct of the parade including the assembly areas and route of march would unreasonably interfere with the public convenience and safe use of the streets and highways.
- (2) The parade would require the diversion of so great a number of police officers to properly police the line of movement, assembly area and areas contiguous thereto so as to deny normal police protection to the Municipality.
- (3) The parade route of march or assembly areas would unreasonably interfere with the movement of police vehicles, fire-fighting equipment or ambulance service to other areas of the Municipality.
- (4) The parade would unreasonably interfere with another parade for which a permit has been issued.
- (5) The information contained in the application is found to be false, misleading or incomplete in any material detail.
- (6) An emergency such as a fire or storm would prevent the proper conduct of the parade.

The permit or any order accompanying it may limit or prescribe reasonable conditions, including the hours, the place of assembly and of dispersal, the route of march or travel and the streets, highways or portions thereof which may be used or occupied.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**311.03 TOY VEHICLES ON STREETS.**

(a) No person on roller skates or riding in or by means of any sled, toy vehicle, skateboard or similar device shall go upon any roadway except while crossing a street on a crosswalk and except on streets set aside as play streets.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.



**CHAPTER 313**  
**Traffic Control Devices**

<p><b>313.01</b> Obedience to traffic control devices.</p> <p><b>313.02</b> Through streets; stop and yield right-of-way signs.</p> <p><b>313.03</b> Traffic signal indications.</p> <p><b>313.04</b> Lane-use control signal indications.</p> <p><b>313.05</b> Special pedestrian control signals.</p> <p><b>313.06</b> Flashing traffic signals. (Repealed)</p>	<p><b>313.07</b> Unauthorized signs and signals, hiding from view, advertising.</p> <p><b>313.08</b> Alteration, injury, removal of traffic control devices.</p> <p><b>313.09</b> Driver's duties upon approaching ambiguous or non-working traffic signal.</p> <p><b>313.10</b> Unlawful purchase, possession or sale.</p> <p><b>313.11</b> Portable signal preemption devices prohibited.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law

Designation of through streets or stop intersections - see

Ohio R.C. 4511.07(F), 4511.65

Uniform system of traffic control devices - see Ohio R.C. 4511.09, 4511.11(D)

Placing and maintaining local traffic control devices - see Ohio R.C. 4511.10, 4511.11

Traffic control devices defined - TRAF. 301.46

**313.01 OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

(a) No pedestrian or driver of a vehicle shall disobey the instructions of any traffic control device placed in accordance with the provisions of this Traffic Code, unless at the time otherwise directed by a police officer.

No provisions of this Traffic Code for which signs are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation an official sign is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a particular section of this Traffic Code does not state that signs are required, that section shall be effective even though no signs are erected or in place.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.12)

**313.02 THROUGH STREETS; STOP AND YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY SIGNS.**

(a) All State routes are hereby designated as through streets or highways, provided that stop signs, yield signs or traffic control signals shall be erected at all intersections with such through streets or highways, except as otherwise provided in this section. Where two or more State routes that are through streets or highways intersect and no traffic control signal is in operation, stop signs or yield signs shall be erected at one or more entrances thereto by the Ohio Department of Transportation, except as otherwise provided in this section.

Whenever the Ohio Director of Transportation determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that stop signs are necessary to stop traffic on a through highway for safe and efficient operation, nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent such installations. When circumstances warrant, the Director also may omit stop signs on roadways intersecting through highways under his jurisdiction. Before the Director either installs or removes a stop sign under this paragraph, he shall give notice, in writing, of that proposed action to the Municipality at least thirty days before installing or removing the stop sign.

(b) Other streets or highways or portions thereof, are hereby designated through streets or highways, if they are within the Municipality, if they have a continuous length of more than one mile between the limits of such street or highway or portion thereof, and if they have "stop" or "yield" signs or traffic control signals at the entrances of the majority of intersecting streets or highways. For purposes of this section, the limits of such street or highway or portion thereof, shall be a municipal corporation line, the physical terminus of the street or highway or any point on such street or highway at which vehicular traffic thereon is required by regulatory signs to stop or yield to traffic on the intersecting street, provided that in residence districts the Municipality may by ordinance designate such street or highway, or portion thereof, not to be a through highway and thereafter the affected residence district shall be indicated by official traffic control devices. Where two or more streets or highways designated under this subsection (b) intersect and no traffic control signal is in operation, stop signs or yield signs shall be erected at one or more entrances thereto by the Ohio Department of Transportation or by Council or the authorized local authority, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(c) Stop signs need not be erected at intersections so constructed as to permit traffic to safely enter a through street or highway without coming to a stop. Signs shall be erected at such intersections indicating that the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to or merge with all traffic proceeding on the through street or highway.

(d) Council or the authorized local authority may designate additional through streets or highways and shall erect stop signs, yield signs or traffic control signals at all streets and highways intersecting such through streets or highways, or may designate any intersection as a stop or yield intersection and shall erect like signs at one or more entrances to such intersection. (ORC 4511.65)

**313.03 TRAFFIC SIGNAL INDICATIONS.**

Highway traffic signal indications for vehicles, and pedestrians shall have the following meanings:

(a) Steady Green Signal Indication:

- (1) A. Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal indication is permitted to proceed straight through or turn right or left, or make a u-turn movement except as such movement is modified by a lane-use sign, turn prohibition sign, lane marking, roadway design, separate turn signal indication, or other traffic control device. Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a u-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to both of the following:

1. Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk;
      2. Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.
    - B. In addition, vehicular traffic turning left or making a u-turn movement to the left shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the intersection.
  - (2) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal indication, displayed alone or in combination with another signal indication, is permitted to cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or such other movement as is permitted by other indications displayed at the same time. Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a u-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to both of the following:
    - A. Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk.
    - B. Other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
  - (3)
    - A. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication, as provided in Section 313.05, pedestrians facing a circular green signal indication are permitted to proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. The pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection or so close as to create an immediate hazard at the time that the green signal indication is first displayed.
    - B. Pedestrians facing a green arrow signal indication, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication or other traffic control device, shall not cross the roadway.
- (b) Steady Yellow Signal Indication:
- (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow signal indication is thereby warned that the related green movement or the related flashing arrow movement is being terminated or that a steady red signal indication will be exhibited immediately thereafter when vehicular traffic shall not enter the intersection. The provisions governing vehicular operation under the movement being terminated shall continue to apply while the steady circular yellow signal indication is displayed.
  - (2) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow arrow signal indication is thereby warned that the related green arrow movement or the related flashing arrow movement is being terminated. The provisions governing vehicular operation under the movement being terminated shall continue to apply while the steady yellow arrow signal indication is displayed.
  - (3) Pedestrians facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal indication, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication as provided in Section 313.05 or other traffic control device, shall not start to cross the roadway.
- (c) Steady Red Signal Indication:
- (1)
    - A. Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal indication, unless entering the intersection to make another movement permitted by another signal indication, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is no stop line, traffic shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if there is no crosswalk, before then before entering the intersection; and shall remain stopped until a signal indication to proceed is displayed except as provided in subsections (c)(1), (2) and (3) of this section.

- B. Except when a traffic control device is in place prohibiting a turn on red or a steady red arrow signal indication is displayed, vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal indication is permitted, after stopping, to enter the intersection to turn right, or to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street. The right to proceed with the turn shall be subject to the provisions that are applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.
- (2) A. Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal indication shall not enter the intersection to make the movement indicated by the arrow and, unless entering the intersection to make another movement permitted by another signal indication, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is no stop line, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if there is no crosswalk, then before entering the intersection; and shall remain stopped until a signal indication or other traffic control device permitting the movement indicated by such red arrow is displayed.
  - B. When a traffic control device is in place permitting a turn on a steady red arrow signal indication, vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow indication is permitted, after stopping, to enter the intersection to turn right or to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street. The right to proceed with the turn shall be limited to the direction indicated by the arrow, and shall be subject to the provisions that are applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication as provided in Section 313.05 or other traffic control device, pedestrians facing a steady circular red or steady red arrow signal indication shall not enter the roadway.
  - (4) Local authorities by ordinance, or the Director of Transportation on State highways, may prohibit a right or a left turn against a steady red signal at any intersection, which shall be effective when signs giving notice thereof are posted at the intersection.
- (d) Flashing Green Signal Indication. A flashing green signal indication has no meaning and shall not be used.
  - (e) Flashing Yellow Signal Indication:
    - (1) A. Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection, facing a flashing circular yellow signal indication, is permitted to cautiously enter the intersection to proceed straight through or turn right or left or make a u-turn movement except as such movement is modified by lane-use signs, turn prohibition signs, lane markings, roadway design, separate turn signal indications, or other traffic control devices. Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a u-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to both of the following:
      - 1. Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk;
      - 2. Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.
    - B. In addition, vehicular traffic turning left or making a u-turn to the left shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the intersection.



- (2) A. Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection, facing a flashing yellow arrow signal indication, displayed alone or in combination with another signal indication, is permitted to cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or other such movement as is permitted by other signal indications displayed at the same time. Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a u-turn, shall yield the right-of-way to both of the following:
  - 1. Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk;
  - 2. Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.
- B. In addition, vehicular traffic turning left or making a u-turn to the left shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the intersection.
- (3) Pedestrians facing any flashing yellow signal indication at an intersection, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication or other traffic control device, are permitted to proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the flashing yellow signal indication is first displayed.
- (4) When a flashing circular yellow signal indication is displayed as a beacon to supplement another traffic control device, road users are notified that there is a need to pay additional attention to the message contained thereon or that the regulatory or warning requirements of the other traffic control device, which might not be applicable at all times, are currently applicable.
- (f) Flashing Red Signal Indication:
  - (1) Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection, facing a flashing circular red signal indication, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is no stop line, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if there is no crosswalk, at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection. The right to proceed shall be subject to the provisions that are applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.
  - (2) Pedestrians facing any flashing red signal indication at an intersection, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication or other traffic control device, are permitted to proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the flashing red signal indication is first displayed.
  - (3) When a flashing circular red signal indication is displayed as a beacon to supplement another traffic control device, road users are notified that there is a need to pay additional attention to the message contained thereon or that the regulatory requirements of the other traffic control device, which might not be applicable at all times, are currently applicable. Use of this signal indication shall be limited to supplementing stop, do not enter, or wrong way signs, and to applications where compliance with the supplemented traffic control device requires a stop at a designated point.

- (g) General Application: In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made at the signal.
- (h) Exception. This section does not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by Ohio R.C. 4511.61 and 4511.62. (ORC 4511.13)

### **313.04 LANE-USE CONTROL SIGNAL INDICATIONS.**

- (a) The meanings of lane-use control signal indications are as follows:
  - (1) A steady downward green arrow: A road user is permitted to drive in the lane over which the arrow signal indication is located.
  - (2) A steady yellow "X": A road user is to prepare to vacate the lane over which the signal indication is located because a lane control change is being made to a steady red "X" signal indication.
  - (3) A steady white two-way left-turn arrow: A road user is permitted to use a lane over which the signal indication is located for a left turn, but not for through travel, with the understanding that common use of the lane by oncoming road users for left turns also is permitted.
  - (4) A steady white one-way left-turn arrow: A road user is permitted to use a lane over which the signal indication is located for a left turn, without opposing turns in the same lane, but not for through travel.
  - (5) A steady red "X": A road user is not permitted to use the lane over which the signal indication is located and that this signal indication shall modify accordingly the meaning of other traffic controls present.  
(ORC 4511.131)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.99)

### **313.05 SPECIAL PEDESTRIAN CONTROL SIGNALS.**

- (a) Whenever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "walk" or "don't walk", or the symbol of a walking person or an upraised palm are in place, such signals shall indicate the following instructions:
  - (1) A steady walking person signal indication, which symbolizes "walk", means that a pedestrian facing the signal indication is permitted to start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal indication, possibly in conflict with turning vehicles. The pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the walking person signal indication is first shown.

- (2) A flashing upraised hand signal indication, which symbolizes “don’t walk”, means that a pedestrian shall not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal indication, but that any pedestrian who has already started to cross on a steady walking person signal indication shall proceed to the far side of the traveled way of the street or highway, unless otherwise directed by a traffic control device to proceed only to the median of a divided highway or only to some other island or pedestrian refuge area.
- (3) A steady upraised hand signal indication means that a pedestrian shall not enter the roadway in the direction of the signal indication.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate the continued use of pedestrian control signals utilizing the word “wait” if those signals were installed prior to March 28, 1985.
- (5) A flashing walking person signal indication has no meaning and shall not be used. (ORC 4511.14)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.99)

### **313.06 FLASHING TRAFFIC SIGNALS.**

(Former Ohio R.C. 4511.15 from which Section 313.06 was derived was repealed by House Bill 349, effective April 20, 2012.)

### **313.07 UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS AND SIGNALS, HIDING FROM VIEW, ADVERTISING.**

(a) No person shall place, maintain or display upon or in view of any street any unauthorized sign, signal, marking or device which purports to be, is an imitation of or resembles a traffic control device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal, and no person shall place or maintain, nor shall any public authority permit upon any street any traffic sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial advertising. This section does not prohibit either the erection upon private property adjacent to streets of signs giving useful directional information and of a type that cannot be mistaken for traffic control devices, or the erection upon private property of traffic control devices by the owner of real property in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.211 and 4511.432.

Every such prohibited sign, signal, marking or device is a public nuisance, and the Police Chief is authorized to remove it or cause it to be removed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.16)

**313.08 ALTERATION, INJURY, REMOVAL OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

- (a) No person without lawful authority, shall do any of the following:
- (1) Knowingly move, deface, damage, destroy or otherwise improperly tamper with any traffic control device, any railroad sign or signal, or any inscription, shield or insignia on the device, sign or signal, or any part of the device, sign or signal;
  - (2) Knowingly drive upon or over any freshly applied pavement marking material on the surface of a roadway while the marking material is in an undried condition and is marked by flags, markers, signs or other devices intended to protect it;
  - (3) Knowingly move, damage, destroy or otherwise improperly tamper with a manhole cover.
- (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (a)(1) or (3) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. If a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (3) of this section creates a risk of physical harm to any person, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (3) of this section causes serious physical harm to property that is owned, leased, or controlled by a state or local authority, the offender is guilty of a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

- (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.17)

### **313.09 DRIVER'S DUTIES UPON APPROACHING AMBIGUOUS OR NON-WORKING TRAFFIC SIGNAL.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle who approaches an intersection where traffic is controlled by traffic control signals shall do all of the following, if the signal facing the driver exhibits no colored lights, or colored lighted arrows, exhibits a combination of such lights or arrows that fails to clearly indicate the assignment of right of way, or if the vehicle is a bicycle, the signals are otherwise malfunctioning, due to the failure of a vehicle detector to detect the presence of the bicycle:

- (1) Stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none, stop before entering the intersection;
- (2) Yield the right of way to all vehicles in the intersection or approaching on an intersecting road, if the vehicles will constitute an immediate hazard during the time the driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.
- (3) Exercise ordinary care while proceeding through the intersection.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.132)

### **313.10 UNLAWFUL PURCHASE, POSSESSION OR SALE.**

(a) As used in this section, "traffic control device" means any sign, traffic control signal or other device conforming to and placed or erected in accordance with the manual adopted under Ohio R.C. 4511.09 by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic, including signs denoting the names of streets and highways, but does not mean any pavement marking.

(b) No individual shall buy or otherwise possess or sell, a traffic control device, except when one of the following applies:

- (1) In the course of the individual's employment by the State or a local authority for the express or implied purpose of manufacturing, providing, erecting, moving or removing such a traffic control device;
- (2) In the course of the individual's employment by any manufacturer of traffic control devices other than a State or local authority;

- (3) For the purpose of demonstrating the design and function of a traffic control device to State or local officials;
- (4) When the traffic control device has been purchased from the State or a local authority at a sale of property that is no longer needed or is unfit for use;
- (5) The traffic control device has been properly purchased from a manufacturer for use on private property and the person possessing the device has a sales receipt for the device or other acknowledgment of sale issued by the manufacturer.

(c) This section does not preclude, and shall not be construed as precluding, prosecution for theft in violation of Ohio R.C. 2913.02 or a municipal ordinance relating to theft, or for receiving stolen property in violation of Ohio R.C. 2913.51 or a municipal ordinance relating to receiving stolen property.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.18)

### **313.11 PORTABLE SIGNAL PREEMPTION DEVICES PROHIBITED.**

- (a)
  - (1) No person shall possess a portable signal preemption device.
  - (2) No person shall use a portable signal preemption device to affect the operation of a traffic control signal.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) of this section does not apply to any of the following persons and subsection (a)(2) of this section does not apply to any of the following persons when responding to an emergency call:

- (1) A peace officer, as defined in Ohio R.C. 109.71(A)(11), (12), (14) or (19);
- (2) A State highway patrol trooper;
- (3) A person while occupying a public safety vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01(E)(1), (3) or (4).

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a)(1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(d) As used in this section, "portable signal preemption device" means a device that, if activated by a person, is capable of changing a traffic control signal to green out of sequence.  
(ORC 4513.031)

**TITLE FIVE - Vehicles**

- Chap. 331. Operation Generally.  
 Chap. 333. OVI; Willful Misconduct; Speed.  
 Chap. 335. Licensing; Accidents.  
 Chap. 337. Safety and Equipment.  
 Chap. 339. Commercial and Heavy Vehicles.  
 Chap. 341. Commercial Drivers.

**CHAPTER 331**  
**Operation Generally**

- |         |   |        |   |
|---------|---|--------|---|
| 331.01  | Driving upon right side of roadway; exceptions.                           | 331.22 | Driving onto roadway from place other than roadway: duty to yield.        |
| 331.02  | Passing to right when proceeding in opposite directions.                  | 331.23 | Driving onto roadway from place other than roadway; stopping at sidewalk. |
| 331.03  | Overtaking, passing to left; driver's duties.                             | 331.24 | Right of way of funeral procession.                                       |
| 331.04  | Overtaking and passing upon right.  | 331.25 | Driver's view and control to be unobstructed by load or persons.          |
| 331.05  | Overtaking, passing to left of center.                                    | 331.26 | Driving upon street posted as closed for repair.                          |
| 331.06  | Additional restrictions on riving upon left side of roadway.              | 331.27 | Following and parking near emergency or safety vehicles.                  |
| 331.07  | Hazardous or no passing zones.  | 331.28 | Driving over fire hose.   |
| 331.08  | Driving in marked lanes or continuous lines of traffic.                   | 331.29 | Driving through safety zone.  |
| 331.09  | Following too closely.  | 331.30 | One-way streets and rotary traffic islands.                               |
| 331.10  | Turning at intersections.   | 331.31 | Driving upon divided roadways.  |
| 331.11  | Turning into private driveway, alley or building.                         | 331.32 | Entering and exiting controlled-access highway.                           |
| 331.12  | "U" turns restricted.   | 331.33 | Obstructing intersection, crosswalk or grade crossing.                    |
| 331.13  | Starting and backing vehicles.  | 331.34 | Failure to control; weaving; full time and attention.                     |
| 331.14  | Signals before changing course, turning or stopping.                      | 331.35 | Occupying a moving trailer or manufactured or mobile home.                |
| 331.15  | Hand and arm signals.   | 331.36 | Squealing tires, "peeling", cracking exhaust noises.                      |
| 331.16  | Right of way at intersections.  | 331.37 | Driving upon sidewalks, street lawns or curbs.                            |
| 331.17  | Right of way when turning left.   |        |   |
| 331.18  | Operation of vehicle at yield signs.                                      |        |   |
| 331.19  | Operation of vehicle at stop signs.                                       |        |   |
| 331.20  | Emergency or public safety vehicles at stop signals or signs.             |        |   |
| 331.21  | Right of way of public safety or coroner's vehicle.                       |        |   |
| 331.211 | Report of vehicle failing to yield right of way to public safety vehicle. |        |   |

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| <p><b>331.38 Stopping for school bus; discharging children.</b></p> <p><b>331.39 Driving across grade crossing.</b></p> <p><b>331.40 Stopping at grade crossing.</b></p> | <p><b>331.41 Shortcutting; avoiding traffic control devices.</b></p> <p><b>331.42 Littering from motor vehicle.</b></p> <p><b>331.43 Wearing earplugs or earphones prohibited.</b></p> <p><b>331.44 Direction of travel in alleys.</b></p> <p><b>331.45 Vehicular operation on street closed due to rise in water level.</b></p> |
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#### CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Obedience to traffic control devices - see TRAF. 313.01  
 Operation of bicycles and motorcycles - see TRAF. 373.01  
 et seq.  
 School bus operation - see OAC Ch. 4501-3

#### **331.01 DRIVING UPON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY; EXCEPTIONS.**

- (a) Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:
- (1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or when making a left turn under the rules governing such movements;
  - (2) When an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the highway; provided, any person so doing shall yield the right of way to all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portion of the highway within such distance as to constitute an immediate hazard;
  - (3) When driving upon a roadway divided into three or more marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable thereon;
  - (4) When driving upon a roadway designated and posted with signs for one-way traffic;
  - (5) When otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control device.
- (b) (1) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the prevailing and lawful speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, and far enough to the right to allow passing by faster vehicles if such passing is safe and reasonable, except under any of the following circumstances:
- A. When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
  - B. When preparing for a left turn;
  - C. When the driver must necessarily drive in a lane other than the right-hand lane to continue on the driver's intended route.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (b)(1) of this section requires a driver of a slower vehicle to compromise the driver's safety to allow overtaking by a faster vehicle.



(c) Upon any roadway having four or more lanes for moving traffic and providing for two-way movement of traffic, no vehicle shall be driven to the left of the center line of the roadway, except when authorized by official traffic control devices designating certain lanes to the left of the center of the roadway for use by traffic not otherwise permitted to use the lanes, or except as permitted under subsection (a) (2) hereof.

This subsection shall not be construed as prohibiting the crossing of the center line in making a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.25)

### **331.02 PASSING TO RIGHT WHEN PROCEEDING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.**

(a) Operators of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the right, and upon roadways having width for not more than one line of traffic in each direction, each operator shall give to the other one-half of the main traveled portion of the roadway or as nearly one-half as is reasonably possible.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.26)

### **331.03 OVERTAKING, PASSING TO LEFT; DRIVER'S DUTIES.**

(a) The following rules govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction:

- (1) The operator of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall, except as provided in subsection (a)(3) hereof, signal to the vehicle to be overtaken, shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance, and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. When a motor vehicle overtakes and passes a bicycle, three feet or greater is considered a safe passing distance.
- (2) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the operator of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle at the latter's audible signal, and the operator shall not increase the speed of the operator's vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.
- (3) The operator of a vehicle overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction on a divided street or highway as defined in Section 331.31, a limited access highway as defined in Ohio R.C. 5511.02 or a highway with four or more traffic lanes, is not required to signal audibly to the vehicle being overtaken and passed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.27)

#### **331.04 OVERTAKING AND PASSING UPON RIGHT.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only under the following conditions:

- (1) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn;
- (2) Upon a roadway with unobstructed pavement of sufficient width for two or more lines of vehicles moving lawfully in the direction being traveled by the overtaking vehicle.

(b) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. The movement shall not be made by driving off the roadway.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.28)

#### **331.05 OVERTAKING, PASSING TO LEFT OF CENTER.**

(a) No vehicle shall be driven to the left of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing traffic proceeding in the same direction, unless such left side is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit such overtaking and passing to be completely made, without interfering with the safe operation of any traffic approaching from the opposite direction or any traffic overtaken. In every event the overtaking vehicle must return to an authorized lane of travel as soon as practicable and in the event the passing movement involves the use of a lane authorized for traffic approaching from the opposite direction before coming within 200 feet of any approaching vehicle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.29)

**331.06 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON DRIVING UPON LEFT SIDE OF ROADWAY.**

(a) No vehicle shall be driven upon the left side of the roadway under the following conditions:

- (1) When approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway, where the operator's view is obstructed within such a distance as to create a hazard in the event traffic might approach from the opposite direction;
- (2) When the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel;
- (3) When approaching within 100 feet of or traversing any intersection or railroad grade crossing.

(b) This section does not apply to vehicles upon a one-way roadway, upon a roadway where traffic is lawfully directed to be driven to the left side or under the conditions described in Section 331.01(a)(2).

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.30)

**331.07 HAZARDOUS OR NO PASSING ZONES.**

(a) Hazardous zones, commonly called "no passing zones," shall consist of an auxiliary yellow line marked on the roadway pavement and placed parallel to the normal center line or marked lane line. When the auxiliary yellow line appears on the left side in the driver's lane of travel and to the right of the normal center line or marked lane line, no driver shall drive across the auxiliary yellow line to overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction. When auxiliary yellow lines appear on both sides of the normal center line or marked lane line, drivers proceeding in either direction shall not drive across such auxiliary yellow lines to overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction. No driver shall, at any other time, drive across the yellow auxiliary line when it appears in the driver's lane of travel, except to make a lawfully permitted left-hand turn under the rules governing such movement. No passing signs may also be erected facing traffic to indicate the beginning and end of each no passing zone.

When appropriate signs or markings indicating hazardous or no passing zones are in place and clearly visible, every operator of a vehicle shall obey the directions of the signs or markings, notwithstanding the distance set out in Section 331.06.

- (b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply when all of the following apply:
- (1) The slower vehicle is proceeding at less than half the speed of the speed limit applicable to that location.
  - (2) The faster vehicle is capable of overtaking and passing the slower vehicle without exceeding the speed limit.
  - (3) There is sufficient clear sight distance to the left of the center or center line of the roadway to meet the overtaking and passing provisions of Section 331.05, considering the speed of the slower vehicle.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.31)

### **331.08 DRIVING IN MARKED LANES OR CONTINUOUS LINES OF TRAFFIC.**

(a) Whenever any roadway has been divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic or wherever traffic is lawfully moving in two or more substantially continuous lines in the same direction, the following rules apply:

- (1) A vehicle shall be driven, as nearly as is practicable, entirely within a single lane or line of traffic and shall not be moved from such lane or line until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made with safety.
- (2) Upon a roadway which is divided into three lanes and provides for two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle where the roadway is clearly visible and such center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance, or when preparing for a left turn, or where such center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction the vehicle is proceeding and is posted with signs to give notice of such allocation.
- (3) Official signs may be erected directing specified traffic to use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction regardless of the center of the roadway, or restricting the use of a particular lane to only buses during certain hours or during all hours, and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of such signs.
- (4) Official traffic control devices may be installed prohibiting the changing of lanes on sections of roadway and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of every such device.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.33)

### **331.09 FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY.**

(a) The operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

The driver of any truck, or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle, when traveling upon a roadway outside a business or residence district shall maintain a sufficient space, whenever conditions permit, between such vehicle and another vehicle ahead so an overtaking motor vehicle may enter and occupy such space without danger. This paragraph does not prevent overtaking and passing nor does it apply to any lane specially designated for use by trucks.

Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or residence district in a caravan or motorcade, shall maintain a sufficient space between such vehicles so an overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy such space without danger. This paragraph shall not apply to funeral processions.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.34)

### **331.10 TURNING AT INTERSECTIONS.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle intending to turn at an intersection shall be governed by the following rules:

- (1) Approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
- (2) At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of such center line where it enters the intersection and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection to the right of the center line of the roadway being entered. Whenever practicable the left turn shall be made in that portion of the intersection to the left of the center of the intersection.
- (3) At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of such vehicle, and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection, as nearly as practicable, in the left-hand lane of the roadway being entered lawfully available to the traffic moving in that lane.
- (4) Markers, buttons or signs may be placed within or adjacent to intersections and thereby require and direct that a different course from that specified in this section be traveled by vehicles turning at an intersection, and when such markers, buttons or signs are so placed, no operator of a vehicle shall turn such vehicle at an intersection other than as directed and required by such markers, buttons or signs.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.36)

**331.11 TURNING INTO PRIVATE DRIVEWAY, ALLEY OR BUILDING.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle intending to turn into a private road or driveway, alley or building from a public street or highway shall be governed by the following rules:

- (1) Approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
- (2) Upon a roadway where traffic is proceeding in opposite directions, approach for a left turn and a left turn shall be made from that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof.
- (3) Upon a roadway where traffic is restricted to one direction, approach for a left turn and a left turn shall be made as close as practicable to the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

It shall be the duty of the driver of any vehicle entering a private road or driveway, alley or building to yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully using the sidewalk or sidewalk area extending across any alleyway, private road, driveway or building.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**331.12 "U" TURNS RESTRICTED.**

(a) Except as provided in Section 313.03 and subsection (b) hereof, no vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade, if the vehicle cannot be seen within 500 feet by the driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction.

(b) The driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, may turn the vehicle so as to proceed in the opposite direction. This subsection applies only when the emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle is responding to an emergency call, is equipped with and displaying at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, and when the driver of the vehicle is giving an audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle or bell. This subsection does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway. (ORC 4511.37)

(c) Except as provided in subsection (b) hereof, no vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction within an intersection, or upon any street in a business district, or upon a freeway, expressway or controlled-access highway, or where authorized signs are erected to prohibit such movement, or at any other location unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety to other users of the street and without interfering with the safe operation of any traffic that may be affected by such movement.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.37)

**331.13 STARTING AND BACKING VEHICLES.**

(a) No person shall start a vehicle which is stopped, standing or parked until such movement can be made with reasonable safety.

Before backing, operators of vehicles shall give ample warning, and while backing they shall exercise vigilance not to injure person or property on the street or highway.

No person shall back a motor vehicle on a freeway, except: in a rest area; in the performance of public works or official duties; as a result of an emergency caused by an accident or breakdown of a motor vehicle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.38)

**331.14 SIGNALS BEFORE CHANGING COURSE, TURNING OR STOPPING.**

(a) No person shall turn a vehicle or move right or left upon a highway unless and until such person has exercised due care to ascertain that the movement can be made with reasonable safety nor without giving an appropriate signal in the manner hereinafter provided.

When required, a signal of intention to turn or move right or left shall be given continuously during not less than the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning, except that in the case of a person operating a bicycle, the signal shall be made not less than one time but is not required to be continuous. A bicycle operator is not required to make a signal if the bicycle is in a designated turn lane, and a signal shall not be given when the operator's hands are needed for the safe operation of the bicycle.

No person shall stop or suddenly decrease the speed of a vehicle without first giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided herein to the driver of any vehicle immediately to the rear when there is opportunity to give a signal.

Any stop or turn signal required by this section shall be given either by means of the hand and arm, or by signal lights that clearly indicate to both approaching and following traffic intention to turn or move right or left, except that any motor vehicle in use on a highway shall be equipped with, and the required signal shall be given by, signal lights when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the left outside limit of the body, cab or load of such motor vehicle exceeds twenty-four inches, or when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the rear limit of the body or load thereof exceeds fourteen feet, whether a single vehicle or a combination of vehicles.

The signal lights required by this section shall not be flashed on one side only on a disabled vehicle, flashed as a courtesy or "do pass" signal to operators of other vehicles approaching from the rear, nor be flashed on one side only of a parked vehicle except as may be necessary for compliance with this section.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.39)

**331.15 HAND AND ARM SIGNALS.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) hereof, all signals required by this Traffic Code, when given by hand and arm shall be given from the left side of the vehicle in the following manner, and such signals shall indicate as follows:

- (1) Left turn: Hand and arm extended horizontally;
- (2) Right turn: Hand and arm extended upward;
- (3) Stop or decrease speed: Hand and arm extended downward.

(b) As an alternative to subsection (a)(2) hereof, a person operating a bicycle may give a right turn signal by extending the right hand and arm horizontally and to the right side of the bicycle.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.40)

**331.16 RIGHT OF WAY AT INTERSECTIONS.**

(a) When two vehicles approach or enter an intersection from different streets or highways at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.

(b) The right of way rule declared in subsection (a) hereof, is modified at through highways and otherwise as stated in this Traffic Code and Ohio R.C. Chapter 4511. (ORC 4511.41)

(c) Subject to compliance with any traffic control device, when two vehicles approach or enter a junction of two or more alleys from different directions at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.41)

**331.17 RIGHT OF WAY WHEN TURNING LEFT.**

(a) The operator of a vehicle intending to turn to the left within an intersection or into an alley, private road or driveway shall yield the right of way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction, whenever the approaching vehicle is within the intersection or so close to the intersection, alley, private road or driveway as to constitute an immediate hazard.



(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.42)

### **331.18 OPERATION OF VEHICLE AT YIELD SIGNS.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign shall slow down to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions and, if required for safety to stop, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering it. After slowing or stopping, the driver shall yield the right of way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time the driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways. Whenever a driver is involved in a collision with a vehicle in the intersection or junction of roadways, after driving past a yield sign without stopping, the collision shall be prima-facie evidence of the driver's failure to yield the right of way.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.43(B))

### **331.19 OPERATION OF VEHICLE AT STOP SIGNS.**

(a) Except when directed to proceed by a law enforcement officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering it. After having stopped, the driver shall yield the right of way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time the driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.43(A))

**331.20 EMERGENCY OR PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLES AT STOP SIGNALS OR SIGNS.**

(a) The driver of any emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, upon approaching a red or stop signal or any stop sign shall slow down as necessary for safety to traffic, but may proceed cautiously past such red or stop sign or signal with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.03)

**331.21 RIGHT OF WAY OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR CORONER'S VEHICLE.**

(a) Upon the approach of a public safety vehicle or coroner's vehicle, equipped with at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and the driver is giving an audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle or bell, no driver of any other vehicle shall fail to yield the right-of-way, immediately drive if practical to a position parallel to and as close as possible to, the right edge or curb of the street clear of any intersection, and stop and remain in that position until the public safety vehicle or coroner's vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) This section does not relieve the driver of a public safety vehicle or coroner's vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the street.

(c) This section applies to a coroner's vehicle only when the vehicle is operated in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4513.171. As used in this section, "coroner's vehicle" means a vehicle used by a coroner, deputy coroner or coroner's investigator that is equipped with a flashing, oscillating or rotating red or blue light and a siren, exhaust whistle, or bell capable of giving an audible signal.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection or Section 331.211, whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on a first offense. On a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree, and, on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. (ORC 4511.45)

**331.211 REPORT OF VEHICLE FAILING TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY TO PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE.**

(a) When the failure of a motor vehicle operator to yield the right-of-way to a public safety vehicle as required by Section 331.21(a) impedes the ability of the public safety vehicle to respond to an emergency, any emergency personnel in the public safety vehicle may report the license plate number and a general description of the vehicle and the operator of the vehicle to the law enforcement agency exercising jurisdiction over the area where the alleged violation occurred.

(b) (1) Upon receipt of a report under subsection (a) of this section, the law enforcement agency may conduct an investigation to attempt to determine or confirm the identity of the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation.

- (2) If the identity of the operator at the time of an alleged violation of Section 331.21(a) is established, the law enforcement agency has probable cause to issue either a written warning or a citation for that violation, and the agency shall issue a written warning or a citation to the operator.
  - (3) If the identity of the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation cannot be established, the law enforcement agency may issue a warning to the person who owned the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation. However, in the case of a leased or rented vehicle, the law enforcement agency shall issue the written warning to the person who leased or rented the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation.
- (c)
- (1) Whoever violates Section 331.21(a) based on a report filed under subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
  - (2) If a person who is issued a citation for a violation of Section 331.21(a) based on a report filed under subsection (a) of this section does not enter a written plea of guilty and does not waive the person's right to contest the citation but instead appears in person in the proper court to answer the charge, the trier of fact cannot find beyond a reasonable doubt that the person committed that violation unless the emergency personnel who filed the report appears in person in the court and testifies.
- (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "License plate" includes any temporary license placard issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.182 or similar law of another jurisdiction.
  - (2) "Public safety vehicle" does not include an unmarked public safety vehicle or a vehicle used by a public law enforcement officer or other person sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the State or a vehicle used by the Motor Carrier Enforcement Unit for the enforcement of orders and rules of the Public Utilities Commission. (ORC 4511.454)

### **331.22 DRIVING ONTO ROADWAY FROM PLACE OTHER THAN ROADWAY: DUTY TO YIELD.**

(a) Subject to compliance with any traffic control device, the operator of a vehicle about to enter or cross a highway from an alley or from any place other than another roadway shall yield the right of way to all traffic approaching on the roadway to be entered or crossed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.44)

### **331.23 DRIVING ONTO ROADWAY FROM PLACE OTHER THAN ROADWAY: STOPPING AT SIDEWALK.**

(a) Subject to compliance with any traffic control device, the driver of a vehicle emerging from an alley, building, private road or driveway within a business or residence district shall stop the vehicle immediately prior to driving onto a sidewalk or onto the sidewalk area extending across the alley, building entrance, road or driveway, or in the event there is no sidewalk area, shall stop at the point nearest the street to be entered where the driver has a view of approaching traffic thereon.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.431)

### **331.24 RIGHT OF WAY OF FUNERAL PROCESSION.**

(a) As used in this section "funeral procession" means two or more vehicles accompanying the cremated remains or the body of a deceased person in the daytime when each of the vehicles has its headlights lighted and is displaying a purple and white or an orange and white pennant attached to each vehicle in such a manner as to be clearly visible to traffic approaching from any direction.

(b) Excepting public safety vehicles proceeding in accordance with Section 331.21 or when directed otherwise by a police officer, pedestrians and the operators of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to each vehicle that is a part of a funeral procession. Whenever the lead vehicle in a funeral procession lawfully enters an intersection, the remainder of the vehicles in the procession may continue to follow the lead vehicle through the intersection notwithstanding any traffic control devices or right-of-way provisions of this Traffic Code, provided that the operator of each vehicle exercises due care to avoid colliding with any other vehicle or pedestrian.

(c) No person shall operate any vehicle as a part of a funeral procession without having the headlights of the vehicle lighted and without displaying a purple and white or an orange and white pennant in such a manner as to be clearly visible to traffic approaching from any direction.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.451)

### **331.25 DRIVER'S VIEW AND CONTROL TO BE UNOBSTRUCTED BY LOAD OR PERSONS.**

(a) No person shall drive a vehicle when it is so loaded, or when there are in the front seat such number of persons, as to obstruct the view of the driver to the front or sides of the vehicle or to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

(b) No passenger in a vehicle shall ride in such position as to interfere with the driver's view ahead or to the sides, or to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.70(A),(B),(D))

**331.26 DRIVING UPON STREET POSTED AS CLOSED FOR REPAIR.**

(a) No person shall drive upon, along or across a street or highway, or any part of a street or highway that has been closed in the process of its construction, reconstruction or repair, and posted with appropriate signs by the authority having jurisdiction to close such street or highway.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.71)

**331.27 FOLLOWING AND PARKING NEAR EMERGENCY OR SAFETY VEHICLES.**

(a) The driver of any vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle on official business, shall not follow any emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle traveling in response to an alarm closer than 500 feet, or drive into or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm, unless directed to do so by a police officer or a firefighter.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.72)

**331.28 DRIVING OVER FIRE HOSE.**

(a) No vehicle shall, without the consent of the Fire Chief or fire official in command, be driven over any unprotected fire hose that is laid down on any street or private driveway to be used at any fire or alarm of fire.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.73)

**331.29 DRIVING THROUGH SAFETY ZONE.**

(a) No vehicle shall at any time be driven through or within a safety zone.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.60)

**331.30 ONE-WAY STREETS AND ROTARY TRAFFIC ISLANDS.**

(a) Upon a roadway designated and posted with signs for one-way traffic a vehicle shall be driven only in the direction designated. A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be driven only to the right of the rotary traffic island.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.32)

**331.31 DRIVING UPON DIVIDED ROADWAYS.**

(a) Whenever any street has been divided into two roadways by an intervening space, or by a physical barrier, or clearly indicated dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic, every vehicle shall be driven only upon the right-hand roadway, and no vehicle shall be driven over, across or within any such dividing space, barrier or median section, except through an opening, crossover or intersection established by public authority. This section does not prohibit the occupancy of such dividing space, barrier or median section for the purpose of an emergency stop or in compliance with an order of a police officer.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.35)

**331.32 ENTERING AND EXITING CONTROLLED-ACCESS HIGHWAY.**

(a) No person shall drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled-access highway except at such entrances and exits as are established by public authority.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**331.33 OBSTRUCTING INTERSECTION, CROSSWALK OR GRADE CROSSING.**

(a) No driver shall enter an intersection or marked crosswalk or drive onto any railroad grade crossing unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection, crosswalk or grade crossing to accommodate the vehicle the driver is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles, pedestrians or railroad trains, notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.712)

**331.34 FAILURE TO CONTROL; WEAVING; FULL TIME AND ATTENTION.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle without exercising reasonable and ordinary control over such vehicle.

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle in a weaving or zigzag course unless such irregular course is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(c) No person shall operate a vehicle without giving his full time and attention to the operation of such vehicle.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**331.35 OCCUPYING A MOVING TRAILER OR MANUFACTURED OR MOBILE HOME.**

(a) No person shall occupy any travel trailer or manufactured or mobile home while it is being used as a conveyance upon a street or highway.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.701)

**331.36 SQUEALING TIRES, "PEELING," CRACKING EXHAUST NOISES.**

(a) No person shall unnecessarily race the motor of any vehicle and no person shall operate any motor vehicle, except in an emergency, in such a manner that the vehicle is so rapidly accelerated or started from a stopped position that the exhaust system emits a loud, cracking or chattering noise unusual to its normal operation, or whereby the tires of such vehicle squeal or leave tire marks on the roadway, commonly called "peeling".

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**331.37 DRIVING UPON SIDEWALKS, STREET LAWNS OR CURBS.**

(a) No person shall drive any vehicle, other than a bicycle, upon a sidewalk or sidewalk area except upon a permanent or duly authorized temporary driveway. (ORC 4511.711)

(b) No person shall drive a vehicle on a street lawn area or the curb of a street, except upon a permanent or duly authorized temporary driveway or when otherwise lawfully authorized.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.711)

**331.38 STOPPING FOR SCHOOL BUS; DISCHARGING CHILDREN.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child, person attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered by a head start agency, shall stop at least ten feet from the front or rear of the school bus and shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.

It is no defense to a charge under this subsection (a) hereof that the school bus involved failed to display or be equipped with an automatically extended stop warning sign as required by subsection (b) hereof.

(b) Every school bus shall be equipped with amber and red visual signals meeting the requirements of Ohio R.C. 4511.771, and an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type approved by the State Board of Education, which shall be actuated by the driver of the bus whenever but only whenever the bus is stopped or stopping on the roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children, persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending programs offered by head start agencies. A school bus driver shall not actuate the visual signals or the stop warning sign in designated school bus loading areas where the bus is entirely off the roadway or at school buildings when children or persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities are loading or unloading at curbside or at buildings when children attending programs offered by head start agencies are boarding or unloading at curbside. The visual signals and stop warning sign shall be synchronized or otherwise operated as required by rule of the Board.

(c) Where a highway has been divided into four or more traffic lanes, a driver of a vehicle need not stop for a school bus approaching from the opposite direction which has stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child, persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending programs offered by head start agencies. The driver of any vehicle overtaking the school bus shall comply with subsection (a) hereof.

(d) School buses operating on divided highways or on highways with four or more traffic lanes shall receive and discharge all school children, persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, and children attending programs offered by head start agencies on their residence side of the highway.

(e) No school bus driver shall start the driver's bus until after any child, person attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered by a head start agency who may have alighted therefrom has reached a place of safety on the child or person's residence side of the road.



- (f) As used in this section:
- (1) “Head start agency” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 3301.32.
  - (2) “School bus”, as used in relation to children who attend a program offered by a head start agency, means a bus that is owned and operated by a head start agency, is equipped with an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type approved by the State Board of Education, is painted the color and displays the markings described in Ohio R.C. 4511.77, and is equipped with amber and red visual signals meeting the requirements of Ohio R.C. 4511.771, irrespective of whether or not the bus has fifteen or more children aboard at any time. “School bus” does not include a van owned and operated by a head start agency, irrespective of its color, lights, or markings.
- (g) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section may be fined an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). A person who is issued a citation for a violation of subsection (a) of this section is not permitted to enter a written plea of guilty and waive the person’s right to contest the citation in a trial but instead must appear in person in the proper court to answer the charge.
- (2) In addition to and independent of any other penalty provided by law, the court or mayor may impose upon an offender who violates this section a class seven suspension of the offender’s driver’s license, commercial driver’s license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (a)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. When a license is suspended under this section, the court or mayor shall cause the offender to deliver the license to the court, and the court or clerk of the court immediately shall forward the license to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, together with notice of the court’s action. (ORC 4511.75)

### **331.39 DRIVING ACROSS GRADE CROSSING.**

- (a) (1) Whenever any person driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing, the person shall stop within fifty feet, but not less than fifteen feet from the nearest rail of the railroad, if any of the following circumstances exist at the crossing:
- A. A clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the immediate approach of a train.
  - B. A crossing gate is lowered.
  - C. A flagperson gives or continues to give a signal of the approach or passage of a train.
  - D. There is insufficient space on the other side of the railroad grade crossing to accommodate the vehicle the person is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles, pedestrians, or railroad trains, notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed.
  - E. An approaching train is emitting an audible signal or is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing.
  - F. There is insufficient undercarriage clearance to safely negotiate the crossing.
- (2) A person who is driving a vehicle and who approaches a railroad grade crossing shall not proceed as long as any of the circumstances described in divisions (a)(1)A. to F. of this section exist at the crossing.

(b) No person shall drive any vehicle through, around, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing while the gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed unless the person is signaled by a law enforcement officer or flagperson that it is permissible to do so.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.  
(ORC 4511.62)

### **331.40 STOPPING AT GRADE CROSSING.**

- (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (a)(2) hereof, the operator of any bus, any school vehicle, or any vehicle transporting material required to be placarded under 49 CFR Parts 100-185, before crossing at grade any track of a railroad, shall stop the vehicle, and, while so stopped, shall listen through an open door or open window and look in both directions along the track for any approaching train, and for signals indicating the approach of a train, and shall proceed only upon exercising due care after stopping, looking and listening as required by this section. Upon proceeding, the operator of such a vehicle shall cross only in a gear that will ensure there will be no necessity for changing gears while traversing the crossing and shall not shift gears while crossing the tracks.
- (2) This section does not apply at grade crossings when the Ohio Public Utilities Commission has authorized and approved an exempt crossing as provided in this subsection.
- A. Any local authority may file an application with the Commission requesting the approval of an exempt crossing. Upon receipt of such a request, the Commission shall authorize a limited period for the filing of comments by any party regarding the application and then shall conduct a public hearing in the community seeking the exempt crossing designation. The Commission shall provide appropriate prior public notice of the comment period and the public hearing. By registered mail, the Commission shall notify each railroad operating over the crossing of the comment period.
- B. After considering any comments or other information received, the Commission may approve or reject the application. By order, the Commission may establish conditions for the exempt crossing designation, including compliance with division (b) of 49 C.F.R. Part 392.10, when applicable. An exempt crossing designation becomes effective only when appropriate signs giving notice of the exempt designation are erected at the crossing as ordered by the Commission and any other conditions ordered by the Commission are satisfied.
- C. By order, the Commission may rescind any exempt crossing designation made under this section if the Commission finds that a condition at the exempt crossing has changed to such an extent that the continuation of the exempt crossing designation compromises public safety. The Commission may conduct a public hearing to investigate and determine whether to rescind the exempt crossing designation. If the Commission rescinds the designation, it shall order the removal of any exempt crossing signs and may make any other necessary order.

- (3) As used in this section:
- A. "School vehicle" means any vehicle used for the transportation of pupils to and from a school or school-related function if the vehicle is owned or operated by, or operated under contract with, a public or nonpublic school.
  - B. "Bus" means any vehicle originally designed by its manufacturer to transport sixteen or more passengers, including the driver, or carries sixteen or more passengers, including the driver.
  - C. "Exempt crossing" means a highway rail grade crossing authorized and approved by the Public Utilities Commission under subsection (a)(2) hereof at which vehicles may cross without making the stop otherwise required by this section.
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (a)(4), whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more violations of subsection (a) hereof or Ohio R.C. 4511.76, 4511.761, 4511.762, 4511.764, 4511.77 or 4511.79, or a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any of those sections, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 4511.63)
- (b) (1) When authorized stop signs are erected at railroad grade crossings, the operator of any vehicle shall stop within fifty but not less than fifteen feet from the nearest rail of the railroad tracks and shall exercise due care before proceeding across such grade crossing.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this subsection (b)(1) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.61)

### **331.41 SHORTCUTTING; AVOIDING TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle across public or private property marked with signs "No Through Traffic" or words of similar import for the purpose of passing from one roadway to another.

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle across public or private property for the purpose of avoiding compliance with a traffic control device.

(c) It shall be prima-facie evidence of a violation of this section for the operator of a vehicle to cross public or private property as provided herein without using the service of such property, stopping the engine or both.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**331.42 LITTERING FROM MOTOR VEHICLE.**

(a) No operator or occupant of a motor vehicle shall, regardless of intent, throw, drop, discard or deposit litter from any motor vehicle in operation upon any street, road or highway, except into a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents its being carried away or deposited by the elements.

(b) No operator of a motor vehicle in operation upon any street, road or highway shall allow litter to be thrown, dropped, discarded or deposited from the motor vehicle, except into a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents its being carried away or deposited by the elements.

(c) As used in this section, "litter" means garbage, trash, waste, rubbish, ashes, cans, bottles, wire, paper, cartons, boxes, automobile parts, furniture, glass or anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4511.82)

**331.43 WEARING EARPLUGS OR EARPHONES PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle while wearing earphones over, or earplugs in, both ears. As used in this section, "earphones" means any headset, radio, tape player or other similar device that provides the listener with radio programs, music or other recorded information through a device attached to the head and that covers all or a portion of both ears. "Earphones" does not include speakers or other listening devices that are built into protective headgear.

(b) This section does not apply to:

- (1) Any person wearing a hearing aid;
- (2) Law enforcement personnel while on duty;
- (3) Fire personnel and emergency medical service personnel while on duty;
- (4) Any person engaged in the operation of equipment for use in the maintenance or repair of any street or highway; or
- (5) Any person engaged in the operation of refuse collection equipment.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.84)

**331.44 DIRECTION OF TRAVEL IN ALLEYS.**

(a) Vehicles using alleys within the City, shall proceed east in alleys running east and west, and north in alleys running north and south, unless otherwise designated.

(b) No such alleys upon which any business premises abuts shall be obstructed in whole or in part in any manner except for such time as is reasonably necessary to load or unload.

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**331.45 VEHICULAR OPERATION ON STREET CLOSED DUE TO RISE  
IN WATER LEVEL.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle on or onto a public street or highway that is temporarily covered by a rise in water level, including groundwater or an overflow of water, and that is clearly marked by a sign that specifies that the road is closed due to the rise in water level and that any person who uses the closed portion of the road may be fined up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

(b) A person who is issued a citation for a violation of subsection (a) hereof is not permitted to enter a written plea of guilty and waive the person's right to contest the citation in court, but instead must appear in person in the proper court to answer the charge.

(c) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(2) In addition to the financial sanctions authorized or required under Section 501.99 and to any costs otherwise authorized or required under any provision of law, the court imposing the sentence upon an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (a) hereof shall order the offender to reimburse one or more rescuers for the cost any such rescuer incurred in rescuing the person, excluding any cost of transporting the rescued person to a hospital or other facility for treatment of injuries, up to a cumulative maximum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000). If more than one rescuer was involved in the emergency response, the court shall allocate the reimbursement proportionately, according to the cost each rescuer incurred. A financial sanction imposed under this section is a judgment in favor of the rescuer and, subject to a determination of indigency under division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, a rescuer may collect the financial sanction in the same manner as provided in Ohio R.C. 2929.28.

(d) As used in this section:

- (1) "Emergency medical service organization", "firefighting agency" and "private fire company" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 9.60.
- (2) "Rescuer" means a state agency, political subdivision, firefighting service, private fire company, or emergency medical service organization.  
(ORC 4511.714.)



**CHAPTER 333**  
**OVI; Willful Misconduct; Speed**

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| <p><b>333.01</b> Driving or physical control while under the influence.</p> <p><b>333.02</b> Operation in willful or wanton disregard of safety.</p> <p><b>333.03</b> Maximum speed limits; assured clear distance ahead.</p> <p><b>333.031</b> Approaching a stationary public safety, emergency, or road service vehicle.</p> <p><b>333.04</b> Stopping vehicle; slow speed; posted minimum speeds.</p> | <p><b>333.05</b> Speed limitations over bridges.</p> <p><b>333.06</b> Speed exceptions for emergency or safety vehicles.</p> <p><b>333.07</b> Street racing prohibited.</p> <p><b>333.08</b> Operation without reasonable control.</p> <p><b>333.09</b> Reckless operation on streets, public or private property.</p> <p><b>333.10</b> Operation in violation of immobilization order.</p> <p><b>333.11</b> Texting while driving prohibited.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Drug of abuse defined - see Ohio R.C. 3719.011(A)  
 Alcohol defined - see Ohio R.C. 4301.01(B)(1)  
 Alteration of prima-facie speed limits - see Ohio R.C. 4511.21, 4511.22(B), 4511.23  
 Failure to control vehicle - see TRAF. 331.34  
 Walking on highway while under the influence - see TRAF. 371.09

**333.01 DRIVING OR PHYSICAL CONTROL WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE.**

- (a) (1) Operation Generally. No person shall operate any vehicle within this Municipality, if, at the time of the operation, any of the following apply:
- A. The person is under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them.
  - B. The person has a concentration of eight-hundredths of one per cent or more but less than seventeen-hundredths of one per cent by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's whole blood.
  - C. The person has a concentration of ninety-six-thousandths of one per cent or more but less than two hundred four-thousandths of one per cent by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's blood serum or plasma.
  - D. The person has a concentration of eight-hundredths of one gram or more but less than seventeen-hundredths of one gram by weight of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of the person's breath.
  - E. The person has a concentration of eleven-hundredths of one gram or more but less than two hundred thirty-eight-thousandths of one gram by weight of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of the person's urine.

- F. The person has a concentration of seventeen-hundredths of one per cent or more by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's whole blood.
- G. The person has a concentration of two hundred four-thousandths of one per cent or more by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's blood serum or plasma.
- H. The person has a concentration of seventeen-hundredths of one gram or more by weight of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of the person's breath.
- I. The person has a concentration of two hundred thirty-eight-thousandths of one gram or more by weight of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of the person's urine.
- J. Except as provided in subsection (m) of this section, the person has a concentration of any of the following controlled substances or metabolites of a controlled substance in the person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine that equals or exceeds any of the following:
  - 1. The person has a concentration of amphetamine in the person's urine of at least five hundred nanograms of amphetamine per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of amphetamine in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least one hundred nanograms of amphetamine per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
  - 2. The person has a concentration of cocaine in the person's urine of at least one hundred fifty nanograms of cocaine per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of cocaine in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least fifty nanograms of cocaine per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
  - 3. The person has a concentration of cocaine metabolite in the person's urine of at least one hundred fifty nanograms of cocaine metabolite per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of cocaine metabolite in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least fifty nanograms of cocaine metabolite per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
  - 4. The person has a concentration of heroin in the person's urine of at least two thousand nanograms of heroin per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of heroin in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least fifty nanograms of heroin per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
  - 5. The person has a concentration of heroin metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine) in the person's urine of at least ten nanograms of heroin metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine) per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of heroin metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine) in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least ten nanograms of heroin metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine) per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.



6. The person has a concentration of L.S.D. in the person's urine of at least twenty-five nanograms of L.S.D. per milliliter of the person's urine or a concentration of L.S.D. in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least ten nanograms of L.S.D. per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
7. The person has a concentration of marihuana in the person's urine of at least ten nanograms of marihuana per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of marihuana in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least two nanograms of marihuana per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
8. Either of the following applies:
  - a. The person is under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse or a combination of them, and the person has a concentration of marihuana metabolite in the person's urine of at least fifteen nanograms of marihuana metabolite per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of marihuana metabolite in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least five nanograms of marihuana metabolite per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
  - b. The person has a concentration of marihuana metabolite in the person's urine of at least thirty-five nanograms of marihuana metabolite per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of marihuana metabolite in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least fifty nanograms of marihuana metabolite per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
9. The person has a concentration of methamphetamine in the person's urine of at least five hundred nanograms of methamphetamine per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of methamphetamine in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least one hundred nanograms of methamphetamine per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
10. The person has a concentration of phencyclidine in the person's urine of at least twenty-five nanograms of phencyclidine per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of phencyclidine in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least ten nanograms of phencyclidine per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
11. The State Board of Pharmacy has adopted a rule pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4729.041 that specifies the amount of salvia divinorum and the amount of salvinorin A that constitute concentrations of salvia divinorum and salvinorin A in a person's urine, in a person's whole blood, or in a person's blood serum or plasma at or above which the person is impaired for purposes of operating any vehicle within this

Municipality, the rule is in effect, and the person has a concentration of salvia divinorum or salvinorin A of at least that amount so specified by rule in the person's urine, in the person's whole blood, or in the person's blood serum or plasma.

- (2) No person who, within twenty years of the conduct described in subsection (a)(2)A. of this section, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19(A) or (B), or any other equivalent offense shall do both of the following:
  - A. Operate any vehicle within this Municipality while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse or a combination of them;
  - B. Subsequent to being arrested for operating the vehicle as described in subsection (a)(2)A. of this section, being asked by a law enforcement officer to submit to a chemical test or tests under Ohio R.C. 4511.191, and being advised by the officer in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.192 of the consequences of the person's refusal or submission to the test or tests, refuse to submit to the test or tests.

(b) Operation After Under-Age Consumption. No person under twenty-one years of age shall operate any vehicle within this Municipality, if, at the time of the operation, any of the following apply:

- (1) The person has a concentration of at least two-hundredths of one per cent but less than eight-hundredths of one per cent by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's whole blood.
- (2) The person has a concentration of at least three-hundredths of one per cent but less than ninety-six-thousandths of one per cent by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's blood serum or plasma.
- (3) The person has a concentration of at least two-hundredths of one gram but less than eight-hundredths of one gram by weight of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of the person's breath.
- (4) The person has a concentration of at least twenty-eight one-thousandths of one gram but less than eleven-hundredths of one gram by weight of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of the person's urine.

(c) One Conviction Limitation. In any proceeding arising out of one incident, a person may be charged with a violation of subsection (a)(1)A. or (a)(2) and a violation of subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section, but the person may not be convicted of more than one violation of these subsections. (ORC 4511.99)

(d) Physical Control.

- (1) As used in this subsection, "physical control" means being in the driver's position of the front seat of a vehicle and having possession of the vehicle's ignition key or other ignition device.
- (2) A. No person shall be in physical control of a vehicle if, at the time of the physical control, any of the following apply:
  1. The person is under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them.
  2. The person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine contains at least the concentration of alcohol specified in subsection (a)(1)B., C., D. or E. hereof.

3. Except as provided in subsection (d)(3) of this section, the person has a concentration of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance in the person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine that equals or exceeds the concentration specified in subsection (a)(1)J. hereof.
  - B. No person under twenty-one years of age shall be in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or while the person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine contains at least the concentration of alcohol specified in subsection (b)(1) to (4) hereof.
- (3) Subsection (d)(2)A.3. of this section does not apply to a person who is in physical control of a vehicle while the person has a concentration of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance in the person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine that equals or exceeds the amount specified in subsection (a)(1)J. hereof, if both of the following apply:
  - A. The person obtained the controlled substance pursuant to a prescription issued by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs.
  - B. The person injected, ingested, or inhaled the controlled substance in accordance with the health professional's directions.
- (e) Evidence; Tests.
  - (1) A. In any criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of (a)(1)A. of this section or for any equivalent offense, that is vehicle-related the result of any test of any blood or urine withdrawn and analyzed at any health care provider, as defined in Ohio R.C. 2317.02, may be admitted with expert testimony to be considered with any other relevant and competent evidence in determining the guilt or innocence of the defendant.
  - B. In any criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or for an equivalent offense that is vehicle related, the court may admit evidence on the concentration of alcohol, drugs of abuse, controlled substances, metabolites of a controlled substance, or a combination of them in the defendant's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, urine or other bodily substance at the time of the alleged violation as shown by chemical analysis of the substance withdrawn within three hours of the time of the alleged violation. The three-hour time limit specified in this subsection regarding the admission of evidence does not extend or affect the two-hour time limit specified in Ohio R.C. 4511.192(A) as the maximum period of time during which a person may consent to a chemical test or tests as described in that section. The court may admit evidence on the concentration of alcohol, drugs of abuse, or a combination of them as described in this section when a person submits to a blood, breath, urine or other bodily substance test at the request of a law enforcement officer under Ohio

R.C. 4511.191, or a blood or urine sample is obtained pursuant to a search warrant. Only a physician, a registered nurse, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, an emergency medical technician-paramedic or a qualified technician, chemist, or phlebotomist shall withdraw a blood sample for the purpose of determining the alcohol, drug, controlled substance, metabolite of a controlled substance, or combination content of the whole blood, blood serum, or blood plasma. This limitation does not apply to the taking of breath or urine specimens. A person authorized to withdraw blood under this subsection may refuse to withdraw blood under this subsection, if in that person's opinion, the physical welfare of the person would be endangered by the withdrawing of blood.

The bodily substance withdrawn under subsection (e)(1)B. hereof shall be analyzed in accordance with methods approved by the Director of Health by an individual possessing a valid permit issued by the Director pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3701.143.

- C. As used in subsection (e)(1)B. of this section, "emergency medical technician-intermediate" and "emergency medical technician-paramedic" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4765.01.
- (2) In a criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for violation of subsection (a) of this section or for an equivalent offense that is vehicle related, if there was at the time the bodily substance was withdrawn a concentration of less than the applicable concentration of alcohol specified in subsections (a)(1)B., C., D. and E. of this section, or less than the applicable concentration of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance specified for a violation of subsection (a)(1)J. of this section, that fact may be considered with other competent evidence in determining the guilt or innocence of the defendant. This subsection does not limit or affect a criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of subsection (b) of this section or for an equivalent offense that is substantially equivalent to that subsection.
- (3) Upon the request of the person who was tested, the results of the chemical test shall be made available to the person or the person's attorney, immediately upon the completion of the chemical test analysis. If the chemical test was obtained pursuant to subsection (e)(1)B. hereof, the person tested may have a physician, a registered nurse, or a qualified technician, chemist or phlebotomist of the person's own choosing administer a chemical test or tests, at the person's expense, in addition to any administered at the request of a law enforcement officer. If the person was under arrest as described in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4511.191, the arresting officer shall advise the person at the time of the arrest that the person may have an independent chemical test taken at the person's own expense. If the person was under arrest other than described in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4511.191, the form to be read to the person to be tested, as required under Ohio R.C. 4511.192, shall state that the person may have an independent test performed at the person's expense. The failure or inability to obtain an additional chemical test by a person shall not preclude the admission of evidence relating to the chemical test or tests taken at the request of a law enforcement officer.

- (4) A. As used in subsections (e)(4)B. and C. of this section, “national highway traffic safety administration” means the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration established as an administration of the United States Department of Transportation under 96 Stat. 2415 (1983), 49 U.S.C.A. 105.
- B. In any criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of subsection (a), (b) or (d) of this section, of a municipal ordinance relating to operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or alcohol and a drug of abuse, or of a municipal ordinance relating to operating a vehicle with a prohibited concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath or urine, if a law enforcement officer has administered a field sobriety test to the operator or person in physical control of the vehicle involved in the violation and if it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the officer administered the test in substantial compliance with the testing standards for any reliable, credible, and generally accepted field sobriety tests that were in effect at the time the tests were administered, including, but not limited to, any testing standards then in effect that were set by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, all of the following apply:
1. The officer may testify concerning the results of the field sobriety test so administered.
  2. The prosecution may introduce the results of the field sobriety test so administered as evidence in any proceedings in the criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding.
  3. If testimony is presented or evidence is introduced under subsection (e)(4)B.1. or 2. of this section and if the testimony or evidence is admissible under the Rules of Evidence, the court shall admit the testimony or evidence and the trier of fact shall give it whatever weight the trier of fact considers to be appropriate.
- C. Subsection (e)(4)B. of this section does not limit or preclude a court, in its determination of whether the arrest of a person was supported by probable cause or its determination of any other matter in a criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding of a type described in that subsection, from considering evidence or testimony that is not otherwise disallowed by subsection (e)(4)B. of this section. (ORC 4511.19; 4511.194)
- (f) Forensic Laboratory Reports.
- (1) Subject to subsection (f)(3) of this section, in any criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of subsection (a)(1)B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., or J. or (b)(1), (2), (3) or (4) of this section or for an equivalent offense that is substantially equivalent to any of those subsections, a laboratory report from any laboratory personnel issued a permit by the Department of Health authorizing an analysis as described in

this subsection that contains an analysis of the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, urine, or other bodily substance tested and that contains all of the information specified in this subsection shall be admitted as prima-facie evidence of the information and statements that the report contains. The laboratory report shall contain all of the following:

- A. The signature, under oath, of any person who performed the analysis;
  - B. Any findings as to the identity and quantity of alcohol, a drug of abuse, a controlled substance, a metabolite of a controlled substance, or a combination of them that was found;
  - C. A copy of a notarized statement by the laboratory director or a designee of the director that contains the name of each certified analyst or test performer involved with the report, the analyst's or test performer's employment relationship with the laboratory that issued the report, and a notation that performing an analysis of the type involved is part of the analyst's or test performer's regular duties;
  - D. An outline of the analyst's or test performer's education, training, and experience in performing the type of analysis involved and a certification that the laboratory satisfies appropriate quality control standards in general and, in this particular analysis, under rules of the Department of Health.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding the admission of evidence, a report of the type described in subsection (f)(1) of this section is not admissible against the defendant to whom it pertains in any proceeding, other than a preliminary hearing or a grand jury proceeding, unless the prosecutor has served a copy of the report on the defendant's attorney or, if the defendant has no attorney, on the defendant.
- (3) A report of the type described in subsection (f)(1) of this section shall not be prima-facie evidence of the contents, identity, or amount of any substance if, within seven days after the defendant to whom the report pertains or the defendant's attorney receives a copy of the report, the defendant or the defendant's attorney demands the testimony of the person who signed the report. The judge in the case may extend the seven-day time limit in the interest of justice.

(g) Immunity From Liability For Withdrawing Blood. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any physician, registered nurse, emergency medical technician-intermediate, emergency medical technician-paramedic, or qualified technician, chemist, or phlebotomist who withdraws blood from a person pursuant to this section or Ohio R.C. 4511.191 or 4511.192, and any hospital, first-aid station, or clinic at which blood is withdrawn from a person pursuant to this section or Ohio R.C. 4511.191 or 4511.192, is immune from criminal liability and civil liability based upon a claim of assault and battery or any other claim that is not a claim of malpractice, for any act performed in withdrawing blood from the person. The immunity provided in this subsection also extends to an emergency medical service organization that employs an emergency medical technician-intermediate or emergency medical technician-paramedic who withdraws blood under this section. The immunity provided in this subsection is not available to a person who withdraws blood if the person engaged in willful or wanton misconduct.

As used in this subsection, "emergency medical technician-intermediate" and "emergency medical technician-paramedic" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4765.01.

(h) General OVI Penalty.

(1) Whoever violates any provision of subsections (a)(1)A. to I. or (a)(2) of this section is guilty of operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them. Whoever violates subsection (a)(1)J. of this section is guilty of operating a vehicle while under the influence of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance. The court shall sentence the offender for either offense under Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, and this Traffic Code, except as otherwise authorized or required by subsections (h)(1)A. to E. of this section:

A. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (h)(1)B., C., D. or E. of this section, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, and the court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:

1. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsections (a)(1)A., B., C., D., E., or J. of this section, a mandatory jail term of three consecutive days. As used in this subsection, three consecutive days means seventy-two consecutive hours. The court may sentence an offender to both an intervention program and a jail term. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the three-day mandatory jail term or intervention program. However, in no case shall the cumulative jail term imposed for the offense exceed six months.

The court may suspend the execution of the three-day jail term under this subsection if the court, in lieu of that suspended term, places the offender under a community control sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.25 and requires the offender to attend, for three consecutive days, a drivers' intervention program certified under Ohio R.C. 5119.38.

The court also may suspend the execution of any part of the three-day jail term under this subsection if it places the offender under a community control sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.25 for part of the three days, requires the offender to attend for the suspended part of the term a drivers' intervention program so certified, and sentences the offender to a jail term equal to the remainder of the three consecutive days that the offender does not spend attending the program. The court may require the offender, as a condition of community control and in addition to the required attendance at a drivers' intervention program, to attend and satisfactorily complete any treatment or education programs that comply with the minimum standards adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 5119 by the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services that the operators of the drivers' intervention program determine that the offender should attend and to report periodically to the court on the offender's progress in the programs. The court also may impose on the offender any other conditions of community control that it considers necessary.

If the court grants unlimited driving privileges to a first-time offender under Ohio R.C. 4510.022, all penalties imposed upon the offender by the court under subsection (h)(1)A.1. of this section for the offense apply, except that the court shall suspend any mandatory or additional jail term imposed by the court under subsection (h)(1)A.1. of this section upon granting unlimited driving privileges in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4510.022.

2. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)F., G., H. or I. or (a)(2) of this section, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a mandatory jail term of at least three consecutive days and a requirement that the offender attend, for three consecutive days, a drivers' intervention program that is certified pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5119.38. As used in this subsection, three consecutive days means seventy-two consecutive hours. If the court determines that the offender is not conducive to treatment in a drivers' intervention program, if the offender refuses to attend a drivers' intervention program, or if the jail at which the offender is to serve the jail term imposed can provide a drivers' intervention program, the court shall sentence the offender to a mandatory jail term of at least six consecutive days.

If the court grants unlimited driving privileges to a first-time offender under Ohio R.C. 4510.022, all penalties imposed upon the offender by the court under subsection (h)(1)A.2. of this section for the offense apply, except that the court shall suspend any mandatory or additional jail term imposed by the court under subsection (h)(1)A.2. of this section upon granting unlimited driving privileges in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4510.022.

The court may require the offender, under a community control sanction imposed under Ohio R.C. 2929.25, to attend and satisfactorily complete any treatment or education programs that comply with the minimum standards adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 5119 by the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in addition to the required attendance at drivers' intervention program, that the operators of the drivers' intervention program determine that the offender should attend and to report periodically to the court on the offender's progress in the programs. The court also may impose any other conditions of community control on the offender that it considers necessary.

3. In all cases, a fine of not less than three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375.00) and not more than one thousand seventy-five dollars (\$1,075).



4. In all cases, a suspension of the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege for a definite period of one to three years. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13. The court may grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device relative to the suspension and may reduce the period of suspension as authorized under Ohio R.C. 4510.022.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (h)(1)E. of this section, an offender who, within ten years of the offense, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or one other equivalent offense is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
1. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)A., B., C., D., E., or J. of this section, a mandatory jail term of ten consecutive days. The court shall impose the ten-day mandatory jail term under this subsection unless, subject to subsection (h)(3) of this section, it instead imposes a sentence under that subsection consisting of both a jail term and a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the ten-day mandatory jail term. The cumulative jail term imposed for the offense shall not exceed six months.  
In addition to the jail term or the term of house arrest with electronic monitoring or continuous alcohol monitoring or both types of monitoring and jail term, the court shall require the offender to be assessed by a community addiction services provider that is authorized by Ohio R.C. 5119.21, subject to subsection (k) of this section, and shall order the offender to follow the treatment recommendations of the services provider. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the degree of the offender's alcohol usage and to determine whether or not treatment is warranted. Upon the request of the court, the services provider shall submit the results of the assessment to the court, including all treatment recommendations and clinical diagnoses related to alcohol use.
  2. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)F., G., H. or I. or (a)(2) of this section, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a mandatory jail term of twenty consecutive days. The court shall impose the twenty-day mandatory jail term under this subsection unless, subject to subsection (h)(3) of this section, it instead imposes a sentence under that subsection consisting of both a jail term and a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the twenty-day mandatory jail term. The cumulative jail term imposed for the offense shall not exceed six months.

In addition to the jail term or the term of house arrest with electronic monitoring or continuous alcohol monitoring or both types of monitoring and jail term, the court shall require the offender to be assessed by a community addiction services provider that is authorized by Ohio R.C. 5119.21, subject to subsection (k) of this section, and shall order the offender to follow the treatment recommendations of the services provider. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the degree of the offender's alcohol usage and to determine whether or not treatment is warranted. Upon the request of the court, the services provider shall submit the results of the assessment to the court, including all treatment recommendations and clinical diagnoses related to alcohol use.

3. In all cases, notwithstanding the fines set forth in Section 303.99, a fine of not less than five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$525.00) and not more than one thousand six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$1,625).
  4. In all cases, a suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege for a definite period of one to seven years. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13. (ORC 4511.19)
  5. In all cases, if the vehicle is registered in the offender's name, immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense for ninety days in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233 and impoundment of the license plates of that vehicle for ninety days. (ORC 4511.193)
- C. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (h)(1)E. of this section, an offender who, within ten years of the offense, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two violations of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or other equivalent offenses is guilty of a misdemeanor. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
1. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)A., B., C., D., E., or J. of this section, a mandatory jail term of thirty consecutive days. The court shall impose the thirty-day mandatory jail term under this subsection unless, subject to subsection (h)(3) of this section, it instead imposes a sentence under that subsection consisting of both a jail term and a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the thirty-day mandatory jail term. Notwithstanding the jail terms set forth in Section 303.99, the additional jail term shall not exceed one year, and the cumulative jail term imposed for the offense shall not exceed one year.

2. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)F., G., H. or I. or (a)(2) of this section, a mandatory jail term of sixty consecutive days. The court shall impose the sixty-day mandatory jail term under this subsection unless, subject to subsection (h)(3) of this section, it instead imposes a sentence under that subsection consisting of both a jail term and a term of electronically monitored house arrest with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the sixty-day mandatory jail term. Notwithstanding the terms of imprisonment set forth in Section 303.99, the additional jail term shall not exceed one year, and the cumulative jail term imposed for the offense shall not exceed one year.
  3. In all cases, notwithstanding the fines set forth in Section 303.99, a fine of not less than eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) and not more than two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$2,750).
  4. In all cases, a suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege for a definite period of two to twelve years. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13. (ORC 4511.19)
  5. In all cases, if the vehicle is registered in the offender's name, criminal forfeiture of the vehicle involved in the offense in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.234. Subsection (h)(5) of this section applies regarding any vehicle that is subject to an order of criminal forfeiture under this subsection. (ORC 4511.193)
  6. In all cases, the court shall order the offender to participate with a community addiction services provider authorized by Ohio R.C. 5119.21, subject to subsection (k) of this section, and shall order the offender to follow the treatment recommendations of the services provider. The operator of the services provider shall determine and assess the degree of the offender's alcohol dependency and shall make recommendations for treatment. Upon the request of the court, the services provider shall submit the results of the assessment to the court, including all treatment recommendations and clinical diagnoses related to alcohol use.
- D. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (h)(1)E. of this section, an offender who, within ten years of the offense, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or four violations of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or other equivalent offenses or an offender who, within twenty years of the offense, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to five or more violations of that nature is guilty of a felony of the fourth degree and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

- E. An offender who previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19(A) that was a felony, regardless of when the violation and the conviction or guilty plea occurred, is guilty of a felony of the third degree and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
- (2) An offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (a) of this section and who subsequently seeks reinstatement of the driver's or occupational driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege suspended under this section as a result of the conviction or guilty plea shall pay a reinstatement fee as provided in division (F)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4511.191.
- (3) If an offender is sentenced to a jail term under subsection (h)(1)B.1. or 2. or (h)(1)C.1. or 2. of this section and if, within sixty days of sentencing of the offender, the court issues a written finding on the record that, due to the unavailability of space at the jail where the offender is required to serve the term, the offender will not be able to begin serving that term within the sixty-day period following the date of sentencing, the court may impose an alternative sentence under this subsection that includes a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring.
- As an alternative to a mandatory jail term of ten consecutive days required by subsection (h)(1)B.1. of this section, the court, under this subsection, may sentence the offender to five consecutive days in jail and not less than eighteen consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The cumulative total of the five consecutive days in jail and the period of house arrest with electronic monitoring, continuous alcohol monitoring, or both types of monitoring shall not exceed six months. The five consecutive days in jail do not have to be served prior to or consecutively to the period of house arrest.
- As an alternative to the mandatory jail term of twenty consecutive days required by subsection (h)(1)B.2. of this section, the court, under this subsection, may sentence the offender to ten consecutive days in jail and not less than thirty-six consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The cumulative total of the ten consecutive days in jail and the period of house arrest with electronic monitoring, continuous alcohol monitoring or both types of monitoring shall not exceed six months. The ten consecutive days in jail do not have to be served prior to or consecutively to the period of house arrest.
- As an alternative to a mandatory jail term of thirty consecutive days required by subsection (h)(1)C.1. of this section, the court, under this subsection, may sentence the offender to fifteen consecutive days in jail and not less than fifty-five consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The cumulative total of the fifteen consecutive days in jail and the period of house arrest with electronic monitoring, continuous alcohol monitoring or both types of monitoring shall not exceed one year. The fifteen consecutive days in jail do not have to be served prior to or consecutively to the period of house arrest.

As an alternative to the mandatory jail term of sixty consecutive days required by subsection (h)(1)C.2. of this section, the court, under this subsection, may sentence the offender to thirty consecutive days in jail and not less than one hundred ten consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The cumulative total of the thirty consecutive days in jail and the period of house arrest with electronic monitoring, continuous alcohol monitoring, or both types of monitoring shall not exceed one year. The thirty consecutive days in jail do not have to be served prior to or consecutively to the period of house arrest.

- (4) If an offender's driver's or occupational driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege is suspended under subsection (h) of this section and if Ohio R.C. 4510.13 permits the court to grant limited driving privileges, the court may grant the limited driving privileges in accordance with that section. If division (A)(7) of that section requires that the court impose as a condition of the privileges that the offender must display on the vehicle that is driven subject to the privileges restricted license plates that are issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.231, except as provided in division (B) of that section, the court shall impose that condition as one of the conditions of the limited driving privileges granted to the offender, except as provided in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 4503.231.
- (5) If title to a motor vehicle that is subject to an order of criminal forfeiture under this section is assigned or transferred and division (B)(2) or (3) of Ohio R.C. 4503.234 applies, in addition to or independent of any other penalty established by law, the court may fine the offender the value of the vehicle as determined by publications of the national auto dealers association. The proceeds of any fine so imposed shall be distributed in accordance with division (C)(2) of that section.
- (6) In all cases in which an offender is sentenced under subsection (h) of this section, the offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, the court, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.18 or 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during or after committing the offense for which the offender is sentenced under subsection (h) of this section.
- (7) A court may order an offender to reimburse a law enforcement agency for any costs incurred by the agency with respect to a chemical test or tests administered to the offender if all of the following apply:
  - A. The offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (a) of this section.
  - B. The test or tests were of the offender's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine.
  - C. The test or tests indicated that the offender had a prohibited concentration of a controlled substance or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the offender's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine at the time of the offense.

- (8) As used in subsection (h) of this section, “electronic monitoring”, “mandatory prison term” and “mandatory term of local incarceration” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.

(i) Vehicle Operation After Underage Alcohol Consumption Penalty. Whoever violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of operating a vehicle after underage alcohol consumption and shall be punished as follows:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (i)(2) of this section, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. In addition to any other sanction imposed for the offense, the court shall impose a class six suspension of the offender’s driver’s license, commercial driver’s license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(6) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13. The court may grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device relative to the suspension and may reduce the period of suspension as authorized under Ohio R.C. 4510.022. If the court grants unlimited driving privileges under Ohio R.C. 4510.022, the court shall suspend any jail term imposed under subsection (i)(1) of this section as required under that section.
- (2) If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more violations of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or other equivalent offenses, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. In addition to any other sanction imposed for the offense, the court shall impose a class four suspension of the offender’s driver’s license, commercial driver’s license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(4) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13.
- (3) If the offender also is convicted of or also pleads guilty to a specification of the type described in Ohio R.C. 2941.1416 and if the court imposes a jail term for the violation of subsection (b) of this section, the court shall impose upon the offender an additional definite jail term pursuant to division (E) of Ohio R.C. 2929.24.
- (4) The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28, in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender’s operation of the vehicle before, during or after committing the violation of subsection (b) of this section.  
(ORC 4511.19)

(j) Physical Control Penalty. Whoever violates subsection (d) hereof is guilty of having physical control of a vehicle while under the influence, a misdemeanor of the first degree. In addition to other sanctions imposed, the court may impose on the offender a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. (ORC 4511.194)

(k) Compliance With Ohio R.C. Chapter 5119 Standards.

- (1) No court shall sentence an offender to an alcohol treatment program under this section unless the treatment program complies with the minimum standards for alcohol treatment programs adopted under Ohio R.C. Chapter 5119 by the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services.
- (2) An offender who stays in a driver's intervention program or in an alcohol treatment program under an order issued under this section shall pay the cost of the stay in the program. However, if the court determines that an offender who stays in an alcohol treatment program under an order issued under this section is unable to pay the cost of the stay in the program, the court may order that the cost be paid from the court's indigent drivers' alcohol treatment fund.

(l) Appeal Does Not Stay Operation of License Suspension. If a person whose driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege is suspended under this section files an appeal regarding any aspect of the person's trial or sentence, the appeal itself does not stay the operation of the suspension.

(m) Subsection (a)(1)J. of this section does not apply to a person who operates a vehicle while the person has a concentration of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance in the person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine that equals or exceeds the amount specified in that subsection, if both of the following apply:

- (1) The person obtained the controlled substance pursuant to a prescription issued by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs.
- (2) The person injected, ingested, or inhaled the controlled substance in accordance with the health professional's directions.

(n) The prohibited concentrations of a controlled substance or a metabolite of a controlled substance listed in subsection (a)(1)J. of this section also apply in a prosecution of a violation of Ohio R.C. 2923.16(D) in the same manner as if the offender is being prosecuted for a prohibited concentration of alcohol.

(o) Conflict of Terms. All terms defined in Ohio R.C. 4510.01 apply to this section. If the meaning of a term defined in Ohio R.C. 4510.01 conflicts with the meaning of the same term as defined in Ohio R.C. 4501.01 or this Traffic Code, the term as defined in Ohio R.C. 4510.01 applies to this section. (ORC 4511.19)

(p) Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund. Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) of any fine imposed for a violation of subsection (a) hereof shall be deposited into the municipal or county indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4511.193.  
(ORC 4511.193)

(q) Definitions. As used in this section:

- (1) "Equivalent offense" means any of the following:
  - A. A violation of division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19;
  - B. A violation of a municipal OVI ordinance;
  - C. A violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.04 in a case in which the offender was subject to the sanctions described in division (D) of that section;
  - D. A violation of division (A)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2903.06 or 2903.08 or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to either of those divisions;
  - E. A violation of division (A)(2), (3) or (4) of Ohio R.C. 2903.06, division (A)(2) of Ohio R.C. 2903.08, or former Ohio R.C. 2903.07, or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to any of those divisions or that former section, in a case in which a judge or jury as the trier of fact found that the offender was under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them;
  - F. A violation of division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 1547.11;
  - G. A violation of a municipal ordinance prohibiting a person from operating or being in physical control of any vessel underway or from manipulating any water skis, aquaplane or similar device on the waters of this State while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or prohibiting a person from operating or being in physical control of any vessel underway or from manipulating any water skis, aquaplane or similar device on the waters of this State with a prohibited concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath or urine;
  - H. A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance, law of another state, or law of the United States that is substantially equivalent to division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 1547.11;
  - I. A violation of a former law of this State that was substantially equivalent to division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 1547.11;
- (2) "Mandatory jail term" means the mandatory term in jail of three, six, ten, twenty, thirty, or sixty days that must be imposed under subsection (h)(1)A., B. or C. upon an offender convicted of a violation of subsection (a) hereof and in relation to which all of the following apply:
  - A. Except as specifically authorized under this section, the term must be served in a jail.
  - B. Except as specifically authorized under this section, the term cannot be suspended, reduced or otherwise modified pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code.



- (3) “Municipal OVI ordinance” and “municipal OVI offense” mean any municipal ordinance prohibiting a person from operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or prohibiting a person from operating a vehicle with a prohibited concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum, or plasma, breath or urine.
- (4) “Community residential sanction”, “continuous alcohol monitoring”, “jail”, “mandatory prison term”, “mandatory term of local incarceration”, “sanction” and “prison term” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
- (5) “Drug of abuse” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4506.01.
- (6) “Equivalent offense that is vehicle-related” means an equivalent offense that is any of the following:
  - A. A violation described in subsection (q)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) hereof;
  - B. A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance, law of another state, or law of the United States that is substantially equivalent to division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19;
  - C. A violation of a former law of this state that was substantially equivalent to division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19.(ORC 4511.181)

### **333.02 OPERATION IN WILLFUL OR WANTON DISREGARD OF SAFETY.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle on any street or highway in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property. (ORC 4511.20)

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle on any public or private property other than streets or highways, in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property.

This subsection does not apply to the competitive operation of vehicles on public or private property when the owner of such property knowingly permits such operation thereon. (ORC 4511.201)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

### **333.03 MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS; ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE AHEAD.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle at a speed greater or less than is reasonable or proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface and width of the street or highway and any other conditions, and no person shall drive any motor vehicle in and upon any street or highway at a greater speed than will permit the person to bring it to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead. (ORC 4511.21)

(b) It is prima-facie lawful, in the absence of a lower limit declared or established pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4511.21 by the Ohio Director of Transportation or Council, for the operator of a motor vehicle to operate the same at a speed not exceeding the following:

- (1) A. Twenty miles per hour in school zones during school recess and while children are likely to be present while going to or leaving school prior to, during and after the opening or closing hours, and when twenty miles per hour school speed limit signs are erected; except, that on controlled-access highways and expressways, if the right-of-way line fence has been erected without pedestrian opening, the speed shall be governed by subsection (b)(4) hereof and on freeways, if the right-of-way line fence has been erected without pedestrian opening, the speed shall be governed by subsection (b)(7) hereof. The end of every school zone may be marked by a sign indicating the end of the zone. Nothing in this section or in the manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices shall be construed to require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights, or giving other special notice of the hours in which the school zone speed limit is in effect. (Ord. 1937-15. Passed 12-10-15.)
- B. As used in this section, "school" means any school chartered under Ohio R.C. 3301.16 and any nonchartered school that during the preceding year filed with the Department of Education in compliance with rule 3301-35-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code, a copy of the school's report for the parents of the school's pupils certifying that the school meets Ohio minimum standards for nonchartered, nontax-supported schools and presents evidence of this filing to the jurisdiction from which it is requesting the establishment of a school zone.
- C. As used in this section, "school zone" means that portion of a street or highway passing a school fronting upon the street or highway that is encompassed by projecting the school property lines to the fronting street or highway. Upon request from the Municipality for streets and highways under its jurisdiction, the Ohio Director of Transportation may extend the traditional school zone boundaries. The distances in subsections (b)(1)C.1. to 3. hereof shall not exceed 300 feet per approach per direction and are bounded by whichever of the following distances or combinations thereof the Director approves as most appropriate:
1. The distance encompassed by projecting the school building lines normal to the fronting highway and extending a distance of 300 feet on each approach direction;
  2. The distance encompassed by projecting the school property lines intersecting the fronting highway and extending a distance of 300 feet on each approach direction;
  3. The distance encompassed by the special marking of the pavement for a principal school pupil crosswalk plus a distance of 300 feet on each approach direction of highway;
- Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate the Director's initial action on August 9, 1976, establishing all school zones at the traditional school zone boundaries defined by projecting school property lines, except when those boundaries are extended as provided in subsections (b)(1)A. and C. hereof.

- D. As used in this subsection, "crosswalk" has the meaning given that term in Section 301.09. The Director may, upon request by resolution of Council, and upon submission by the Municipality of such engineering, traffic and other information as the Director considers necessary, designate a school zone on any portion of a State route lying within the Municipality that includes a crosswalk customarily used by children going to or leaving a school during recess and opening and closing hours, whenever the distance, as measured in a straight line, from the school property line nearest the crosswalk to the nearest point of the crosswalk is no more than 1,320 feet. Such a school zone shall include the distance encompassed by the crosswalk and extending 300 feet on each approach direction of the State route;
- (2) Twenty-five miles per hour in all other portions of the Municipality, except on State routes outside business districts, through highways outside business districts and alleys;
  - (3) Thirty-five miles per hour on all State routes or through highways within the Municipality outside business districts, except as provided in subsections (b)(4) and (5) hereof;
  - (3.5) Forty miles per hour on Dryden Road.  
(Ord. 1070-94. Passed 4-28-94.)
  - (4) Fifty miles per hour on controlled-access highways and expressways within the Municipality;
  - (5) Fifty miles per hour on State routes within the Municipality outside urban districts unless a lower prima-facie speed is established as further provided in this section;
  - (6) Fifteen miles per hour on all alleys within the Municipality;
  - (7) Fifty-five miles per hour at all times on freeways with paved shoulders inside the Municipality other than freeways as provided in subsection (b)(10) and (12);
  - (8) Sixty miles per hour for operators of any motor vehicle at all times on all portions of rural divided highways;
  - (9) Sixty-five miles per hour for operators of any motor vehicle at all times on rural expressways without traffic control signals;
  - (10) Seventy miles per hour for operators of any motor vehicle at all times on all rural freeways.
  - (11) Fifty-five miles per hour for operators of any motor vehicle at all times on all portions of freeways in congested areas as determined by the Director and that are part of the interstate system and are located within a municipal corporation or within an interstate freeway outerbelt;
  - (12) Sixty-five miles per hour for operators of any motor vehicle at all times on all portions of freeways in urban areas as determined by the Director and that are part of the interstate system and are part of an interstate freeway outerbelt;

(c) It is prima-facie unlawful for any person to exceed any of the speed limitations in subsection (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof, or any declared or established pursuant to this section by the Director or local authorities and it is unlawful for any person to exceed any of the speed limitations in subsection (d) hereof. No person shall be convicted of more than one violation of this section for the same conduct, although violations of more than one provision of this section may be charged in the alternative in a single affidavit.

- (d) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon a street or highway as follows:
- (1) At a speed exceeding fifty-five miles per hour, except upon a highway, expressway or freeway as provided in subsection (b)(8), (9), (10) and (12) hereof;
  - (2) At a speed exceeding sixty miles per hour upon a highway as provided in subsection (b)(8) hereof;
  - (3) At a speed exceeding sixty-five miles per hour upon an expressway as provided in subsection (b)(9) hereof, except upon a freeway as provided in subsection (b)(10) hereof;
  - (4) At a speed exceeding seventy miles per hour upon a freeway as provided in subsection (b)(10) hereof;
  - (5) At a speed exceeding the posted speed limit upon a highway, expressway or freeway for which the Director has determined and declared a speed limit pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4511.21(I)(2) or (L)(2).

(e) In every charge of violation of this section the affidavit and warrant shall specify the time, place and speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven, and in charges made in reliance upon subsection (c) hereof also the speed which subsections (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof, or a limit declared or established pursuant to this section declares is prima-facie lawful at the time and place of such alleged violation, except that in affidavits where a person is alleged to have driven at a greater speed than will permit the person to bring the vehicle to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead the affidavit and warrant need not specify the speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven.

(f) When a speed in excess of both a prima-facie limitation and a limitation in subsection (d) hereof is alleged, the defendant shall be charged in a single affidavit, alleging a single act, with a violation indicated of both subsections (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof, or of a limit declared or established pursuant to this section by the Director or local authorities, and of the limitation in subsection (d) hereof. If the court finds a violation of subsection (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof, or a limit declared or established pursuant to this section has occurred, it shall enter a judgment of conviction under such subsection and dismiss the charge under subsection (d) hereof. If it finds no violation of subsections (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof or a limit declared or established pursuant to this section, it shall then consider whether the evidence supports a conviction under subsection (d) hereof.

(g) Points shall be assessed for violation of a limitation under subsection (d) hereof in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4510.036.

(h) Whenever, in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or this section, the speed limitations as established herein have been altered, either higher or lower, and the appropriate signs giving notice have been erected as required, operators of motor vehicles shall be governed by the speed limitations set forth on such signs. It is prima-facie unlawful for any person to exceed the speed limits posted upon such signs.

(i) As used in this section:

- (1) "Interstate system" has the same meaning as in 23 U.S.C.A. 101.
- (2) "Commercial bus" means a motor vehicle designed for carrying more than nine passengers and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.
- (3) "Noncommercial bus" includes but is not limited to a school bus, or a motor vehicle operated solely for the transportation of persons associated with a charitable or nonprofit organization.
- (4) "Outerbelt" means a portion of a freeway that is part of the interstate system and is located in the outer vicinity of a major municipal corporation or group of municipal corporations, as designated by the Director.
- (5) "Rural" means outside urbanized areas, as designated in accordance with 23 USC 101, and outside of a business or urban district.

(j) (1) A violation of any provision of this section is one of the following:

- A. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (j)(1)B., (1)C., (2) and (3) of this section, a minor misdemeanor;
- B. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two violations of any provision of this section or of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any provision of this section, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree;
- C. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of any provision of this section or of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any provision of this section, a misdemeanor of the third degree.

- (2) If the offender has not previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or of any provision of a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to Ohio R.C. 4511.21 and operated a motor vehicle faster than thirty-five miles an hour in a business district of a municipal corporation, faster than fifty miles an hour in other portions of a municipal corporation, or faster than thirty-five miles an hour in a school zone during recess or while children are going to or leaving school during the school's opening or closing hours, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (j)(1) of this section, if the offender operated a motor vehicle in a construction zone where a sign was then posted in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.98, the court, in addition to all other penalties provided by law, shall impose upon the offender a fine of two times the usual amount imposed for the violation. No court shall impose a fine of two times the usual amount imposed for the violation upon an offender if the offender alleges, in an affidavit filed with the court prior to the offender's sentencing, that the offender is indigent and is unable to pay the fine imposed pursuant to this subsection and if the court determines that the offender is an indigent person and unable to pay the fine. (ORC 4511.21)

**333.031 APPROACHING A STATIONARY PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE.**

(a) The driver of a motor vehicle, upon approaching a stationary public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, vehicle used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct motor vehicle inspections in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4923.04 and 4923.06 or a highway maintenance vehicle that is displaying the appropriate visual signals by means of flashing, oscillating or rotating lights, as prescribed in Section 337.16, shall do either of the following:

- (1) If the driver of the motor vehicle is traveling on a street or highway that consists of at least two lanes that carry traffic in the same direction of travel as that of the driver's motor vehicle, the driver shall proceed with due caution and, if possible with due regard to the road, weather, and traffic conditions, shall change lanes into a lane that is not adjacent to that of the stationary public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, vehicle used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct motor vehicle inspections in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4923.04 and 4923.06 or a highway maintenance vehicle.
- (2) If the driver is not traveling on a street or highway of a type described in subsection (a)(1) of this section, or if the driver is traveling on a highway of that type but it is not possible to change lanes or if to do so would be unsafe, the driver shall proceed with due caution, reduce the speed of the motor vehicle, and maintain a safe speed for the road, weather and traffic conditions.

(b) This section does not relieve the driver of a public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, vehicle used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct motor vehicle inspections in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4923.04 and 4923.06, or a highway maintenance vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway.

(c) No person shall fail to drive a motor vehicle in compliance with subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section when so required by subsection (a) of this section.

- (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.
- (2) Notwithstanding Section 303.99(b), upon a finding that a person operated a motor vehicle in violation of subsection (c) of this section, the court, in addition to all other penalties provided by law, shall impose a fine of two times the usual amount imposed for the violation. (ORC 4511.213)

**333.04 STOPPING VEHICLE; SLOW SPEED; POSTED MINIMUM SPEEDS.**

(a) No person shall stop or operate a vehicle at such an unreasonably slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when stopping or reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or to comply with law.

(b) Whenever, in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.22(B), the minimum speed limit of a controlled-access highway, expressway or freeway has been declared and the appropriate signs giving notice have been erected as required, operators of motor vehicles shall be governed by the speed limitations set forth on such signs. No person shall operate a motor vehicle below the speed limits posted upon such signs except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(c) In a case involving a violation of this section, the trier of fact, in determining whether the vehicle was being operated at an unreasonably slow speed, shall consider the capabilities of the vehicle and its operator.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.22)

**333.05 SPEED LIMITATIONS OVER BRIDGES.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle over any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a street at a speed which is greater than the maximum speed that can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure, when such structure is posted with authorized signs stating such maximum speed. Such signs shall be erected and maintained at a distance of at least 100 feet before each end of such structure.

(b) Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation of this section, proof of the determination of the maximum speed and the existence of such signs shall constitute prima-facie evidence of the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.23)

**333.06 SPEED EXCEPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY OR SAFETY VEHICLES.**

The prima-facie speed limitations set forth in Section 333.03 do not apply to emergency vehicles or public safety vehicles when they are responding to emergency calls and are equipped with and displaying at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and when the drivers thereof sound audible signals by bell, siren or exhaust whistle. This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway. (ORC 4511.24)

**333.07 STREET RACING PROHIBITED.**

(a) As used in this section, "street racing" means the operation of two or more vehicles from a point side by side at accelerating speeds in a competitive attempt to out-distance each other or the operation of one or more vehicles over a common selected course, from the same point to the same point, wherein timing is made of the participating vehicles involving competitive accelerations or speeds.

Persons rendering assistance in any manner to such competitive use of vehicles shall be equally charged as the participants. The operation of two or more vehicles side by side either at speeds in excess of prima-facie lawful speeds established by Section 333.03 or rapidly accelerating from a common starting point to a speed in excess of such prima-facie lawful speeds shall be prima-facie evidence of street racing.

(b) No person shall participate in street racing upon any public road, street or highway in this Municipality.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of street racing, a misdemeanor of the first degree. In addition to any other sanctions, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license or nonresident operating privilege for not less than thirty days or more than three years. No judge shall suspend the first thirty days of any suspension of an offender's license, permit, or privilege imposed under this subsection. (ORC 4511.251)

**333.08 OPERATION WITHOUT REASONABLE CONTROL.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle, agricultural tractor, or agricultural tractor that is towing, pulling, or otherwise drawing a unit of farm machinery on any street, highway, or property open to the public for vehicular traffic without being in reasonable control of the vehicle, agricultural tractor or unit of farm machinery.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of operating a motor vehicle or agricultural tractor without being in control of it, a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4511.202)

**333.09 RECKLESS OPERATION ON STREETS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle on any street or highway without due regard for the safety of persons or property.

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle on any public or private property other than streets or highways, without due regard for the safety of persons or property.

This subsection does not apply to the competitive operation of vehicles on public or private property when the owner of such property knowingly permits such operation thereon.

(c) "Reckless operation" means the operation of a vehicle without the degree of care as a reasonably prudent person would have under similar circumstances. It is prima facie evidence of reckless operation to drive a vehicle in excess of twice the posted speed limit. (Ord. 891-90. Passed 3-8-90.)

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.



**333.10 OPERATION IN VIOLATION OF IMMOBILIZATION ORDER.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle or permit the operation of a motor vehicle upon any public or private property used by the public for vehicular travel or parking knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the motor vehicle has been ordered immobilized pursuant to an immobilization order issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.233.

(b) A motor vehicle that is operated by a person during a violation of subsection (a) hereof shall be criminally forfeited in accordance with the procedures contained in Ohio R.C. 4503.234.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. (ORC 4503.236)

**333.11 TEXTING WHILE DRIVING PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on any street, highway, or property open to the public for vehicular traffic while using a handheld electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) A person using a handheld electronic wireless communications device in that manner for emergency purposes, including an emergency contact with a law enforcement agency, hospital or health care provider, fire department, or other similar emergency agency or entity;
- (2) A person driving a public safety vehicle who uses a handheld electronic wireless communications device in that manner in the course of the person's duties;
- (3) A person using a handheld electronic wireless communications device in that manner whose motor vehicle is in a stationary position and who is outside a lane of travel;
- (4) A person reading, selecting, or entering a name or telephone number in a handheld electronic wireless communications device for the purpose of making or receiving a telephone call;
- (5) A person receiving wireless messages on a device regarding the operation or navigation of a motor vehicle; safety-related information, including emergency, traffic or weather alerts; or data used primarily by the motor vehicle;
- (6) A person receiving wireless messages via radio waves;
- (7) A person using a device for navigation purposes;
- (8) A person conducting wireless interpersonal communication with a device that does not require manually entering letters, numbers, or symbols or reading text messages, except to activate, deactivate, or initiate the device or a feature or function of the device;
- (9) A person operating a commercial truck while using a mobile data terminal that transmits and receives data;
- (10) A person using a handheld electronic wireless communications device in conjunction with a voice-operated or hands-free device feature or function of the vehicle.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of an automobile being operated on any street or highway to stop the automobile for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (a) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation or summons for a violation of that nature or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of that nature, and no law enforcement officer shall view the interior or visually inspect any automobile being operated on any street or highway for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of that nature has been or is being committed.

(d) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

(e) A prosecution for a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.204 does not preclude a prosecution for a violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance based on the same conduct. However, if an offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.204 and is also convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance based on the same conduct, the two offenses are allied offenses of similar import under Ohio R.C. 2941.25.

(f) As used in this section:

- (1) "Electronic wireless communications device" includes any of the following:
  - A. A wireless telephone;
  - B. A text-messaging device;
  - C. A personal digital assistant;
  - D. A computer, including a laptop computer and a computer tablet;
  - E. Any other substantially similar wireless device that is designed or used to communicate text.
- (2) "Voice-operated or hands-free device" means a device that allows the user to vocally compose or send, or to listen to a text-based communication without the use of either hand except to activate, or deactivate a feature or function.
- (3) "Write, send or read a text-based communication" means to manually write or send, or read a text-based communication using an electronic wireless communications device, including manually writing or sending, or reading communications referred to as text messages, instant messages, or electronic mail.  
(ORC 4511.204)

**CHAPTER 335**  
**Licensing; Accidents**

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| <p><b>335.01</b> Driver's license or commercial driver's license required.</p> <p><b>335.02</b> Permitting operation without valid license; one license permitted.</p> <p><b>335.021</b> Ohio driver's license required for in state residents.</p> <p><b>335.03</b> Driving with temporary instruction permit; curfew.</p> <p><b>335.031</b> Driving with probationary license; curfew.</p> <p><b>335.032</b> Use of electronic wireless communication device prohibited while driving.</p> <p><b>335.04</b> Certain acts prohibited.</p> <p><b>335.05</b> Wrongful entrustment of a motor vehicle.</p> <p><b>335.06</b> Display of license.</p> <p><b>335.07</b> Driving under suspension or license restriction.</p> <p><b>335.071</b> Driving under OVI suspension.</p> | <p><b>335.072</b> Driving under financial responsibility law suspension or cancellation; driving under a nonpayment of judgement suspension.</p> <p><b>335.073</b> Driving without complying with license reinstatement requirements.</p> <p><b>335.074</b> Driving under license forfeiture or child support suspension.</p> <p><b>335.08</b> Operation or sale without certificate of title.</p> <p><b>335.09</b> Display of license plates.</p> <p><b>335.10</b> Expired or unlawful license plates.</p> <p><b>335.11</b> Use of illegal license plates; transfer of registration.</p> <p><b>335.111</b> Registration within thirty days of residency.</p> <p><b>335.12</b> Stopping after accident upon streets; collision with unattended vehicle.</p> <p><b>335.13</b> Stopping after accident upon property other than street.</p> <p><b>335.14</b> Vehicle accident resulting in damage to realty.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law

Deposit of driver's license as bond - see Ohio R.C. 2937.221

Motor vehicle licensing law - see Ohio R.C. Ch. 4503

Driver's license law - see Ohio R.C. Ch. 4507

Power of trial court of record to suspend or revoke license for certain violations - see Ohio R.C. Ch. 4510

State point system suspension - see Ohio R.C. 4510.03.6

State accident reports - see Ohio R.C. 4509.01(J), 4509.06, 4509.74, 5502.11

Motorized bicycle operator's license - see Ohio R.C. 4511.521

Glass removal from street after accident - see TRAF. 311.01

**335.01 DRIVER'S LICENSE OR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE  
REQUIRED.**

- (a) (1) No person, except those expressly exempted under Ohio R.C. 4507.03, 4507.04, and 4507.05, shall operate any motor vehicle upon a public road or highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality unless the person has a valid driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 or a commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506.
- (2) No person, except a person expressly exempted under Ohio R.C. 4507.03, 4507.04, and 4507.05, shall operate any motorcycle upon a public road or highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality unless the person has a valid license as a motorcycle operator that was issued upon application by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507. The license shall be in the form of an endorsement, as determined by the Registrar, upon a driver's or commercial driver's license, if the person has a valid license to operate a motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle, or in the form of a restricted license as provided in Ohio R.C. 4507.14, if the person does not have a valid license to operate a motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle.

(b) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth, and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the person did not have either a valid driver's or commercial driver's license at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section or a valid license as a motorcycle operator either in the form of an endorsement upon a driver's or commercial driver's license or a restricted license at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of operating a motor vehicle or motorcycle without a valid license and shall be punished as follows:

- (1) If the trier of fact finds that the offender never has held a valid driver's or commercial driver's license issued by this state or any other jurisdiction, or, in a case involving the operation of a motorcycle by the offender, if the offender has never held a valid license as a motorcycle operator, either in the form of an endorsement upon a driver's or commercial driver's license or in the form of a restricted license, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours.

The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

- (2) If the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or, in a case involving the operation of a motorcycle by the offender, the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license bearing the motorcycle endorsement or the offender's restricted license was expired at the time of the offense, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the offense is a minor misdemeanor. If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(d) The court shall not impose a license suspension for a first violation of this section or if more than three years have passed since the offender's last violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

(e) If the offender is sentenced under subsection (c)(2) hereof, if within three years of the offense the offender previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, and if the offender's license was expired for more than six months at the time of the offense, the court may impose a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. (ORC 4510.12)

### **335.02 PERMITTING OPERATION WITHOUT VALID LICENSE; ONE LICENSE PERMITTED.**

(a) No person shall permit the operation of a motor vehicle upon any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking knowing the operator does not have a valid driver's license issued to the operator by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 or a valid commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506.

(b) No person shall receive a driver's license, or a motorcycle operator's endorsement of a driver's or commercial driver's license, unless and until he surrenders to the Registrar all valid licenses issued to him by another jurisdiction recognized by the State of Ohio. No person shall be permitted to have more than one valid license at any time. (ORC 4507.02)

- (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect

criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case. If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4507.02 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

- (2) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4507.02; 4507.99)

### **335.021 OHIO DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIRED FOR IN STATE RESIDENTS.**

(a) Any person who becomes a resident of this State, within thirty days of becoming a resident, shall surrender any driver's license issued by another state to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or a Deputy Registrar. If such a person intends to operate a motor vehicle upon the public roads or highways, the person shall apply for a driver's license in this State. If the person fails to apply for a driver's license within thirty days of becoming a resident, the person shall not operate any motor vehicle in this Municipality under a license issued by another state.

- (b)
  - (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
  - (2) The offense established under subsection (b)(1) of this section is a strict liability offense and strict liability is a culpable mental state for purposes of Ohio R.C. 2901.20. The designation of this offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense.

(c) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, "resident" means any person to whom any of the following applies:

- (1) The person maintains their principal residence in this State and does not reside in this State as a result of the person's active service in the United States Armed Forces.
- (2) The person is determined by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to be a resident in accordance with standards adopted by the Registrar under Ohio R.C. 4507.01. (ORC 4507.213)

### **335.03 DRIVING WITH TEMPORARY INSTRUCTION PERMIT; CURFEW.**

(a) No holder of a temporary instruction permit issued under Ohio R.C. 4507.05(A) shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in violation of the following conditions:

- (1) If the permit is issued to a person who is at least fifteen years six months of age, but less than sixteen years of age:
  - A. The permit and identification card are in the holder's immediate possession;
  - B. The holder is accompanied by an eligible adult who actually occupies the seat beside the permit holder and does not have a prohibited concentration of alcohol in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine as provided in Ohio R.C. 4511.19(A);
  - C. The total number of occupants of the vehicle does not exceed the total number of occupant restraining devices originally installed in the motor vehicle by its manufacturer, and each occupant of the vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device.
- (2) If the permit is issued to a person who is at least sixteen years of age:
  - A. The permit and identification card are in the holder's immediate possession;

- B. The holder is accompanied by a licensed operator who is at least twenty-one years of age and is actually occupying a seat beside the driver and does not have a prohibited concentration of alcohol in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine as provided in Ohio R.C. 4511.19(A);
- C. The total number of occupants of the vehicle does not exceed the total number of occupant restraining devices originally installed in the motor vehicle by its manufacturer, and each occupant of the vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (b) hereof, no holder of a temporary instruction permit that is issued under Ohio R.C. 4507.05(A) and that is issued on or after July 1, 1998, and who has not attained the age of eighteen years, shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the hours of midnight and six a.m.

The holder of a permit issued under Ohio R.C. 4507.05(A) on or after July 1, 1998, who has not attained the age of eighteen years, may operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the hours of midnight and six a.m. if, at the time of such operation, the holder is accompanied by the holder's parent, guardian, or custodian, and the parent, guardian or custodian holds a current valid driver's or commercial driver's license issued by this State and is actually occupying a seat beside the permit holder, and does not have a prohibited concentration of alcohol in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine as provided in Section 333.01(a).

- (c) As used in this section:
  - (1) "Eligible adult" means any of the following:
    - A. An instructor of a driver education course approved by the Department of Education or a driver training course approved by the Department of Public Safety;
    - B. Any of the following persons who holds a current valid driver's or commercial driver's license issued by this State:
      - 1. A parent, guardian or custodian of the permit holder;
      - 2. A person twenty-one years of age or older who acts in loco parentis of the permit holder.
  - (2) "Occupant restraining device" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4513.263.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4507.05)

### **335.031 DRIVING WITH PROBATIONARY LICENSE; CURFEW.**

- (a) (1) A. No holder of a probationary driver's license who has held the license for less than twelve months shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the hours of midnight and six a.m. unless the holder is accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian.
- B. No holder of a probationary driver's license who has held the license for twelve months or longer shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m. unless the holder is accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian.

- (2) A. Subject to subsection (c)(1) of this section, subsection (a)(1)A. of this section does not apply to the holder of a probationary driver's license who is doing either of the following:
1. Traveling to or from work between the hours of midnight and six a.m. provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from the holder's employer.
  2. Traveling to or from an official function sponsored by the school the holder attends between the hours of midnight and six a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from an appropriate official of the school;
  3. Traveling to or from an official religious event between the hours of midnight and six a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from an appropriate official affiliated with the event.
- B. Subsection (a)(1)B. of this section does not apply to the holder of a probationary driver's license who is doing either of the following:
1. Traveling to or from work between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from the holder's employer.
  2. Traveling to or from an official function sponsored by the school the holder attends between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from an appropriate official of the school;
  3. Traveling to or from an official religious event between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from an appropriate official affiliated with the event.
- (3) An employer, school official or official affiliated with a religious event is not liable in damages in a civil action for any injury, death or loss to person or property that allegedly arises from, or is related to, the fact that the employer, school official, or official affiliated with a religious event provided the holder of a probationary driver's license with the written documentation described in subsection (a)(2) of this section.  
The Registrar of Motor Vehicles shall make available at no cost a form to serve as the written documentation described in subsection (a)(2) of this section, and employers, school officials, officials affiliated with religious events, and holders of probationary driver's licenses may utilize that form or may choose to utilize any other written documentation to meet the requirements of that subsection.
- (4) No holder of a probationary driver's license who has held the license for less than twelve months shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking with more than one person who is not a family member occupying the vehicle unless the probationary license holder is accompanied by the probationary license holder's parent, guardian or custodian.



(b) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of subsection (a)(1)A. or B. of this section if, at the time of the violation, an emergency existed that required the holder of the probationary driver's license to operate a motor vehicle in violation of subsection (a)(1)A. or B. of this section; or the holder was an emancipated minor.

- (c) (1) If a person is issued a probationary driver's license prior to attaining the age of seventeen years and the person pleads guilty to, is convicted of, or is adjudicated in juvenile court of having committed a moving violation during the six-month period commencing on the date on which the person is issued the probationary driver's license, the court with jurisdiction over the violation may order that the holder must be accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian whenever the holder is operating a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking for a period not to exceed six months or the date the holder attains the age of seventeen years, whichever occurs first.
- (2) Any person who is subject to the operating restrictions established under subsection (c)(1) of this section as a result of a first moving violation may petition the court for driving privileges without being accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian during the period of time determined by the court under that subsection. In granting the driving privileges, the court shall specify the purposes of the privileges and shall issue the person appropriate forms setting forth the privileges granted. If a person is convicted of, pleads guilty to, or is adjudicated in juvenile court of having committed a second or subsequent moving violation, the court with jurisdiction over the violation may terminate any driving privileges previously granted under this division.
- (3) No person shall violate any operating restriction imposed under subsection (c)(1) or (2) of this section.

(d) No holder of a probationary license shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking unless the total number of occupants of the vehicle does not exceed the total number of occupant restraining devices originally installed in the motor vehicle by its manufacturer, and each occupant of the vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause the operator of a motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the motor vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether each occupant of the motor vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device as required by subsection (d) hereof, or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons if the requirement in that subsection has been or is being violated, or for causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of that requirement.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause the operator of a motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the motor vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (a)(1)A. or B. hereof has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons for such a violation or for causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for such violation.

- (g) As used in this section:
- (1) "Occupant restraining device" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4513.263.
  - (2) "Family member" of a probationary license holder includes any of the following:
    - A. A spouse;
    - B. A child or stepchild;
    - C. A parent, stepparent, grandparent, or parent-in-law;
    - D. An aunt or uncle;
    - E. A sibling, whether or the whole or half blood or by adoption, a brother-in-law or a sister-in-law;
    - F. A son or daughter of the probationary license holder's stepparent if the stepparent has not adopted the probationary license holder;
    - G. An eligible adult, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4507.05.
  - (3) "Moving violation" means any violation of any statute or ordinance that regulates the operation of vehicles, streetcars, or trackless trolleys on the highways or streets. "Moving violation" does not include a violation of Ohio R.C. 4513.263 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, or a violation of any statute or ordinance regulating pedestrians or the parking of vehicles, vehicle size or load limitations, vehicle fitness requirements, or vehicle registration.

(h) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4507.071)

**335.032 USE OF ELECTRONIC WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE  
PROHIBITED WHILE DRIVING.**

(a) No holder of a temporary instruction permit who has not attained the age of eighteen years and no holder of a probationary driver's license shall drive a motor vehicle on any street, highway, or property used by the public for purposes of vehicular traffic or parking while using in any manner an electronic wireless communications device.

- (b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to either of the following:
- (1) A person using an electronic wireless communications device for emergency purposes, including an emergency contact with a law enforcement agency, hospital or health care provider, fire department, or other similar emergency agency or entity;
  - (2) A person using an electronic wireless communications device whose motor vehicle is in a stationary position and the motor vehicle is outside a lane of travel;
  - (3) A person using a navigation device in a voice-operated or hands-free manner who does not manipulate the device while driving.
- (c)
- (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a) of this section shall be fined one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00). In addition, the court shall impose a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license or permit for a definite period of sixty days.
  - (2) If the person previously has been adjudicated a delinquent child or a juvenile traffic offender for a violation of this section, whoever violates this section shall be fined three hundred dollars (\$300.00). In addition, the court shall impose a class seven suspension of the person's driver's license or permit for a definite period of one year.

(d) The filing of a sworn complaint against a person for a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.205 does not preclude the filing of a sworn complaint for a violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance for the same conduct. However, if a person is adjudicated a delinquent child or a juvenile traffic offender for a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.205 and is also adjudicated a delinquent child or a juvenile traffic offender for a violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance for the same conduct, the two offenses are allied offenses of similar import under Ohio R.C. 2941.25.

(e) As used in this section, “electronic wireless communications device” includes any of the following:

- (1) A wireless telephone;
- (2) A personal digital assistant;
- (3) A computer, including a laptop computer and a computer tablet;
- (4) A text-messaging device;
- (5) Any other substantially similar electronic wireless device that is designed or used to communicate via voice, image, or written word.  
(ORC 4511.205)

#### **335.04 CERTAIN ACTS PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall do any of the following:

- (1) Display, or cause or permit to be displayed, or possess any identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit knowing the same to be fictitious, or to have been canceled, suspended or altered;
- (2) Lend to a person not entitled thereto, or knowingly permit a person not entitled thereto to use any identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit issued to the person so lending or permitting the use thereof;
- (3) Display or represent as one's own, any identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit not issued to the person so displaying the same;
- (4) Fail to surrender to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, upon the Registrar's demand, any identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit that has been suspended or canceled;
- (5) In any application for an identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit, or any renewal or duplicate thereof, knowingly conceal a material fact, or present any physician's statement required under Ohio R.C. 4507.08 or 4507.081 when knowing the same to be false or fictitious.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 4507.30)

#### **335.05 WRONGFUL ENTRUSTMENT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE.**

(a) No person shall permit a motor vehicle owned by the person or under the person's control to be driven by another if any of the following apply:

- (1) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person does not have a valid driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or valid nonresident driving privileges.

- (2) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privileges have been suspended or canceled under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4510, or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code or this Traffic Code.
- (3) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person's act of driving the motor vehicle would violate any prohibition contained in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4509.
- (4) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person's act of driving would violate Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.
- (5) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle is the subject of an immobilization waiver order issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.235 and the other person is prohibited from operating the vehicle under that order.

(b) Without limiting or precluding the consideration of any other evidence in determining whether a violation of subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section has occurred, it shall be prima-facie evidence that the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the operator of the motor vehicle owned by the offender or under the offender's control is in a category described in subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section if any of the following applies:

- (1) Regarding an operator allegedly in the category described in subsection (a)(1), (3) or (5) of this section, the offender and the operator of the motor vehicle reside in the same household and are related by consanguinity or affinity.
- (2) Regarding an operator allegedly in the category described in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the offender and the operator of the motor vehicle reside in the same household, and the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the operator has been charged with or convicted of any violation of law or ordinance, or has committed any other act or omission, that would or could result in the suspension or cancellation of the operator's license, permit or privilege.
- (3) Regarding an operator allegedly in the category described in subsection (a)(4) of this section, the offender and the operator of the motor vehicle occupied the motor vehicle together at the time of the offense.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of wrongful entrustment of a motor vehicle and shall be punished as provided in subsections (c) to (h) of this section.

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02.

- (2) A. If, within three years of a violation of subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section, the offender previously has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of two or more violations of division (A)(1), (2) or (3) of Ohio R.C. 4511.203 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- B. Whoever violates subsection (a)(4) or (5) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (3) For any violation of this section, in addition to the penalties imposed under Section 303.99, the court may impose a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02, and, if the vehicle involved in the offense is registered in the name of the offender, the court may order one of the following:
- A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(3)B. or C. of this section, the court may order, for thirty days, the immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense and the impoundment of that vehicle's license plates. If issued, the order shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
- B. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.203 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the court may order, for sixty days, the immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense and the impoundment of that vehicle's license plates. If issued, the order shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
- C. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4511.203 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the court may order the criminal forfeiture to the state of the vehicle involved in the offense. If issued, the order shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.234.
- If title to a motor vehicle that is subject to an order for criminal forfeiture under this subsection is assigned or transferred and division (B)(2) or (3) of Ohio R.C. 4503.234 applies, in addition to or independent of any other penalty established by law, the court may fine the offender the value of the vehicle as determined by publications of the national automobile dealer's association. The proceeds from any fine imposed under this subsection shall be distributed in accordance with division (C)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4503.234.

(d) If a court orders the immobilization of a vehicle under subsection (c) of this section, the court shall not release the vehicle from the immobilization before the termination of the period of immobilization ordered unless the court is presented with current proof of financial responsibility with respect to that vehicle.

(e) If a court orders the criminal forfeiture of a vehicle under subsection (c) of this section, upon receipt of the order from the court, neither the Registrar of Motor Vehicles nor any deputy registrar shall accept any application for the registration or transfer of registration of any motor vehicle owned or leased by the person named in the order. The period of denial shall be five years after the date the order is issued, unless, during that five-year period, the court with jurisdiction of the offense that resulted in the order terminates the forfeiture and notifies the

Registrar of the termination. If the court terminates the forfeiture and notifies the Registrar, the Registrar shall take all necessary measures to permit the person to register a vehicle owned or leased by the person or to transfer the registration of the vehicle.

(f) This section does not apply to motor vehicle rental dealers or motor vehicle leasing dealers, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4549.65.

(g) Evidence of a conviction of, plea of guilty to, or adjudication as a delinquent child for a violation of this section or a substantially similar municipal ordinance shall not be admissible as evidence in any civil action that involves the offender or delinquent child who is the subject of the conviction, plea, or adjudication and that arises from the wrongful entrustment of a motor vehicle.

(h) For purposes of this section, a vehicle is owned by a person if, at the time of a violation of this section, the vehicle is registered in the person's name. (ORC 4511.203)

### **335.06 DISPLAY OF LICENSE.**

(a) The operator of a motor vehicle shall display the operator's driver's license, or furnish satisfactory proof that the operator has a driver's license, upon demand of any peace officer or of any person damaged or injured in any collision in which the licensee may be involved. When a demand is properly made and the operator has the operator's driver's license on or about the operator's person, the operator shall not refuse to display the license. A person's failure to furnish satisfactory evidence that the person is licensed under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 when the person does not have the person's license on or about the person's person shall be prima-facie evidence of the person's not having obtained a driver's license.

- (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) hereof, whoever violates this section is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case.
- (2) If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4507.35 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4507.35)

### **335.07 DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION OR LICENSE RESTRICTION.**

(a) Except as provided under subsection (b) hereof and Sections 335.072 and 335.074, no person whose driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege has been suspended under any provision of the Ohio Revised Code, other than Ohio R.C. Chapter 4509, or under any applicable law in any other jurisdiction in which the person's license or permit was issued shall operate any motor vehicle upon the public roads and highways or upon any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking within this Municipality during the period of suspension unless the person is granted limited driving privileges and is operating the vehicle in accordance with the terms of the limited driving privileges.

(b) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality in violation of any restriction of the person's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit imposed under division (D) of Ohio R.C. 4506.10 or under Ohio R.C. 4507.14.

(c) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth, and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the license of the person was under suspension at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a) of this section or the person operated a motor vehicle in violation of a restriction at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (b) of this section. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

- (d) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) hereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court may impose upon the offender a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02.
- (2) A. Except as provided in subsection (d)(2)B. or C. of this section, the court, in addition to any other penalty that it imposes on the offender and if the vehicle is registered in the offender's name and if, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or Ohio R.C. 4510.111 or 4510.16, or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the court, in addition to or independent of any other sentence that it imposes upon the offender, may order the immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense for thirty days and the impoundment of that vehicle's license plates for thirty days in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
- B. If the vehicle is registered in the offender's name and if, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or any combination of two violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or Ohio R.C. 4510.111 or 4510.16, or of a substantially similar municipal ordinance, the court, in addition to any other sentence that it imposes on the offender may order the immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense for sixty days and the impoundment of that vehicle's license plates for sixty days in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
- C. If the vehicle is registered in the offender's name and if, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.11, or any combination of three or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4501.11 or Ohio R.C. 4510.111 or 4510.16, or of a substantially similar municipal ordinance, the court, in addition to any other sentence that it imposes on the offender may order the criminal forfeiture of the vehicle involved in the offense to the State.

(e) Any order for immobilization and impoundment under this section shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.233 and 4507.02, as applicable. The court shall not release a vehicle from immobilization ordered under this section unless the court is presented with current proof of financial responsibility with respect to that vehicle.

(f) Any order of criminal forfeiture under this section shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.234. Upon receipt of the copy of the order from the court, neither the Ohio Registrar of Motor Vehicles nor a deputy registrar shall accept any application for the registration or transfer of registration of any motor vehicle owned or leased by the person named in the declaration of forfeiture. The period of registration denial shall be five years after the date of the order, unless, during that period, the court having jurisdiction of the offense that lead to the order terminates the forfeiture and notifies the Registrar of the termination. The Registrar shall then take necessary measures to permit the person to register a vehicle owned or leased by the person or to transfer registration of the vehicle.

(g) The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during, or after committing the offense for which the offender is sentenced under this section. (ORC 4510.11)

(h) Any person whose driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privileges are suspended as a repeat traffic offender under this section and who, during the suspension, operates any motor vehicle upon any public roads and highways is guilty of driving under a twelve-point suspension, a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to a minimum term of three days in jail. No court shall suspend the first three days of jail time imposed pursuant to this subsection. (ORC 4510.037)

### **335.071 DRIVING UNDER OVI SUSPENSION.**

(a) No person whose driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege has been suspended under Ohio R.C. 4511.19, 4511.191, or 4511.196 or under Ohio R.C. 4510.07 for a conviction of a violation of a municipal OVI ordinance shall operate any motor vehicle upon the public roads or highways within this Municipality during the period of the suspension.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of driving under OVI suspension. The court shall sentence the offender under Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, subject to the differences authorized or required by this section.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b)(2) or (3) of this section, driving under OVI suspension is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
  - A. A mandatory jail term of three consecutive days. The three-day term shall be imposed, unless, subject to subsection (c) of this section, the court instead imposes a sentence of not less than thirty consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring. A period of house arrest with electronic monitoring imposed under this subsection shall not exceed six months. If the court imposes a mandatory three-day jail term under this subsection, the court may impose a jail term in addition to that term, provided that in no case shall the cumulative jail term imposed for the offense exceed six months.
  - B. A fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
  - C. A license suspension under subsection (e) of this section.



- (2) If, within six years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of this section or one equivalent offense, driving under OVI suspension is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
- A. A mandatory jail term of ten consecutive days. Notwithstanding the jail terms provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, the court may sentence the offender to a longer jail term of not more than one year. The ten-day mandatory jail term shall be imposed unless, subject to subsection (c) of this section, the court instead imposes a sentence of not less than ninety consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring. The period of house arrest with electronic monitoring shall not exceed one year.
  - B. Notwithstanding the fines provided for in Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and not more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).
  - C. A license suspension under subsection (e) of this section.
- (3) If, within six years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of this section or two or more equivalent offenses, driving under OVI suspension is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
- A. A mandatory jail term of thirty consecutive days. Notwithstanding the jail terms provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, the court may sentence the offender to a longer jail term of not more than one year. The court shall not sentence the offender to a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring in lieu of the mandatory portion of the jail term.
  - B. Notwithstanding the fines set forth in Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and not more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).
  - C. A license suspension under subsection (e) of this section.

(c) No court shall impose an alternative sentence of house arrest with electronic monitoring under subsection (b)(1) or (2) of this section unless, within sixty days of the date of sentencing, the court issues a written finding on the record that, due to the unavailability of space at the jail where the offender is required to serve the jail term imposed, the offender will not be able to begin serving that term within the sixty-day period following the date of sentencing.

An offender sentenced under this section to a period of house arrest with electronic monitoring shall be permitted work release during that period.

(d) Fifty per cent of any fine imposed by a court under subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section shall be deposited into the county indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund or municipal indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund under the control of that court, as created by the county or municipal corporation pursuant to division (H) of Ohio R.C. 4511.191.

(e) In addition to or independent of all other penalties provided by law or ordinance, the trial judge of any court of record or the mayor of a mayor's court shall impose on an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02.

When permitted as specified in Ohio R.C. 4510.021, if the court grants limited driving privileges during a suspension imposed under this section, the privileges shall be granted on the additional condition that the offender must display restricted license plates, issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.231, on the vehicle driven subject to the privileges, except as provided in division (B) of that section.

A suspension of a commercial driver's license under this section shall be concurrent with any period of suspension or disqualification under Ohio R.C. 3123.58 or 4506.16. No person who is disqualified for life from holding a commercial driver's license under Ohio R.C. 4506.16 shall be issued a driver's license under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 during the period for which the commercial driver's license was suspended under this section, and no person whose commercial driver's license is suspended under this section shall be issued a driver's license under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 during the period of the suspension.

(f) The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during, or after committing the offense that is a misdemeanor of the first degree under this section for which the offender is sentenced. (ORC 4510.14)

- (g) (1) If a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to Ohio R.C. 4510.14, the court, in addition to and independent of any sentence that it imposes upon the offender for the offense, if the vehicle the offender was operating at the time of the offense is registered in the offender's name, shall do whichever of the following is applicable:
- A. If, within six years of the current offense, the offender has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.14 or former division (D)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4507.02, or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to that section or former division, the court shall order the immobilization for thirty days of the vehicle involved in the offense and the impoundment for thirty days of the license plates of that vehicle in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
  - B. If, within six years of the current offense, the offender has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.14 or former division (D)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4507.02, or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to that section or former division, the court shall order the immobilization for sixty days of the vehicle involved in the offense and the impoundment for sixty days of the license plates of that vehicle in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
  - C. If, within six years of the current offense, the offender has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.14 or former division (D)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4507.02 or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to that section or former division, the court shall order the criminal forfeiture to the State of the vehicle the offender was operating at the time of the offense.

- (2) An order for immobilization and impoundment of a vehicle under this section shall be issued and enforced in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233 and 4507.02, as applicable. The court shall not release a vehicle from immobilization ordered under this section unless the court is presented with current proof of financial responsibility with respect to that vehicle.
  - (3) An order for criminal forfeiture of a vehicle under this section shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.234. Upon receipt of a copy of the order from the court, neither the Registrar of Motor Vehicles nor a Deputy Registrar shall accept any application for the registration or transfer of registration of any motor vehicle owned or leased by the person named in the declaration of forfeiture. The period of registration denial shall be five years after the date of the order unless, during that period, the court having jurisdiction of the offense that led to the order terminates the forfeiture and notifies the Registrar of the termination. The Registrar then shall take the necessary measures to permit the person to register a vehicle owned or leased by the person or to transfer registration of the vehicle.  
(ORC 4510.161)
- (h) As used in this section:
- (1) “Electronic monitoring” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
  - (2) “Equivalent offense” means any of the following:
    - A. A violation of a municipal ordinance, law of another state, or law of the United States that is substantially equivalent to subsection (a) of this section;
    - B. A violation of a former law of this State that was substantially equivalent to subsection (a) of this section.
  - (3) “Jail” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
  - (4) “Mandatory jail term” means the mandatory term in jail of three, ten, or thirty consecutive days that must be imposed under subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section upon an offender convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this section and in relation to which all of the following apply:
    - A. Except as specifically authorized under this section, the term must be served in a jail.
    - B. Except as specifically authorized under this section, the term cannot be suspended, reduced, or otherwise modified pursuant to any provision of the Ohio Revised Code.
 (ORC 4510.14)

**335.072 DRIVING UNDER FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAW  
SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION; DRIVING UNDER A  
NONPAYMENT OF JUDGMENT SUSPENSION.**

(a) No person, whose driver’s or commercial driver’s license or temporary instruction permit or nonresident’s operating privilege has been suspended or canceled pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 4509, shall operate any motor vehicle within this Municipality, or knowingly permit any motor vehicle owned by the person to be operated by another person in the Municipality, during the period of the suspension or cancellation, except as specifically authorized by Ohio R.C. Chapter 4509. No person shall operate a motor vehicle within this Municipality, or knowingly permit any motor vehicle owned by the person to be operated by another person in the Municipality, during the period in which the person is required by Ohio R.C. 4509.45 to file and maintain proof of financial responsibility for a violation of Ohio R.C. 4509.101, unless proof of financial responsibility is maintained with respect to that vehicle.

(b) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality if the person's driver's or commercial driver's license or temporary instruction permit or nonresident operating privilege has been suspended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4509.37 or 4509.40 for nonpayment of a judgment.

(c) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the license of the person was under either a financial responsibility law suspension at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a) of this section or a nonpayment of judgment suspension at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (b) of this section. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

(d) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of driving under financial responsibility law suspension or cancellation and shall be punished as provided in subsection (d) hereof. Whoever violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of driving under a nonpayment of judgment suspension and shall be punished as provided in subsection (d) hereof.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(2) of this section, the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case.
- (2) If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.16, or any combination of two violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.16 or Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or 4510.111, or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (3) The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during or after committing the offense for which the offender is sentenced under this section. (ORC 4510.16)

(e) No person who has knowingly failed to maintain proof of financial responsibility in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4509.101 shall produce any document or present to a peace officer an electronic wireless communications device that is displaying any text or images with the purpose to mislead a peace officer upon the request of a peace officer for proof of financial responsibility made in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4509.101. Whoever violates this subsection (e) hereof is guilty of falsification, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4509.102)

**335.073 DRIVING WITHOUT COMPLYING WITH LICENSE REINSTATEMENT REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) No person whose driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or nonresident's operating privilege has been suspended shall operate any motor vehicle upon a public road or highway or any public or private property after the suspension has expired unless the person has complied with all license reinstatement requirements imposed by the court, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, or another provision of the Ohio Revised Code.

(b) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth, and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the license of the person had not been reinstated by the person at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a) hereof. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a) hereof may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of failure to reinstate a license and shall be punished as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case.
- (2) If, within three years of a violation of subsection (a) of this section, the offender previously has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.21(A) or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (3) In all cases, the court may impose upon the offender a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary driver's license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. (ORC 4510.21)

**335.074 DRIVING UNDER LICENSE FORFEITURE OR CHILD SUPPORT SUSPENSION.**

(a) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality whose driver's or commercial driver's license has been suspended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2151.354, 2151.87, 2935.27, 3123.58, 4301.99, 4510.032, 4510.22 or 4510.33.

(b) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth, and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the license of the person was under suspension at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a) of this section. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a) of this section may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of driving under suspension and shall be punished as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor. The offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case.
- (2) If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of subsection (A) of Ohio R.C. 4510.111, or any combination of two or more violations of subsection (A) of Ohio R.C. 4510.111, or Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or 4510.16, or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree and the offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during or after committing the offense for which the offender is sentenced under this section. (ORC 4510.111)

### **335.08 OPERATION OR SALE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.**

- (a) No person shall do any of the following:
- (1) Operate in this Municipality a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title is required without having that certificate in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505 or, if a physical certificate of title has not been issued for a motor vehicle, operate the motor vehicle in this Municipality knowing that the ownership information relating to the vehicle has not been entered into the automated title processing system by a clerk of a court of common pleas;
  - (2) Display or display for sale or sell as a dealer or acting on behalf of a dealer, a motor vehicle without having obtained a manufacturer's or importer's certificate, a certificate of title, or an assignment of a certificate of title for it as provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505;

- (3) Fail to surrender any certificate of title or any certificate of registration or license plates upon cancellation of the same by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and notice of the cancellation as prescribed in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505;
- (4) Fail to surrender the certificate of title to a clerk of a court of common pleas as provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505 in case of the destruction or dismantling or change of a motor vehicle in such respect that it is not the motor vehicle described in the certificate of title;
- (5) Violate any rules adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505;
- (6) Except as otherwise provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505 and Chapter 4517, sell at wholesale a motor vehicle the ownership of which is not evidenced by an Ohio certificate of title, or the current certificate of title issued for the motor vehicle, or the manufacturer's certificate of origin, and all title assignments that evidence the seller's ownership of the motor vehicle, and an odometer disclosure statement that complies with Ohio R.C. 4505.06 and subchapter IV of the "Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act", 86 Stat. 961 (1972), 15 U.S.C. 1981;
- (7) Operate in this Municipality a motor vehicle knowing that the certificate of title to the vehicle or ownership of the vehicle as otherwise reflected in the automated title processing system has been canceled.

(b) This section does not apply to persons engaged in the business of warehousing or transporting motor vehicles for the purpose of salvage disposition.

(c) Whoever violates this section shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or imprisoned not more than ninety days, or both.  
(ORC 4505.18)

### **335.09 DISPLAY OF LICENSE PLATES.**

- (a) (1) No person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall fail to display in plain view on the front and rear of the motor vehicle a license plate that bears the distinctive number and registration mark assigned to the motor vehicle by the Ohio Director of Public Safety, including any county identification sticker and any validation sticker issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.19 and 4503.191, as follows:
  - A. A manufacturer of motor vehicles or dealer therein, the holder of an in transit permit, and the owner or operator of a motorcycle, motorized bicycle or moped, motor-driven cycle or motor scooter, auticycle, cab-enclosed motorcycle, manufactured home, mobile home, trailer or semitrailer shall display a license plate on the rear only.
  - B. A motor vehicle that is issued two license plates shall display the validation sticker only on the rear license plate, except that a commercial tractor that does not receive an apportioned license plate under the international registration plan shall display the validation sticker on the front of the commercial tractor.
  - C. An apportioned vehicle receiving an apportioned license plate under the international registration plan shall display the license plate only on the front of a commercial tractor and on the rear of all other vehicles.
- (2) All license plates shall be securely fastened so as not to swing, and shall not be covered by any material that obstructs their visibility.

- (3) No person to whom a temporary license placard or windshield sticker has been issued for the use of a motor vehicle under Ohio R.C. 4503.182, and no operator of that motor vehicle, shall fail to display the temporary license placard in plain view from the rear of the vehicle either in the rear window or on an external rear surface of the motor vehicle, or fail to display the windshield sticker in plain view on the rear window of the motor vehicle. No temporary license placard or windshield sticker shall be covered by any material that obstructs its visibility.

(b) A law enforcement officer shall only issue a ticket, citation or summons, or cause the arrest or commence a prosecution, for the failure to display a license plate in plain view on the front of a parked motor vehicle if the officer first determines that another offense has occurred and either places the operator or vehicle owner under arrest or issues a ticket, citation, or summons to the operator or vehicle owner for the other offense.

- (c)
  - (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
  - (2) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section by failing to display a license plate in plain view on the front of a motor vehicle as required under subsection (a) of this section while the motor vehicle is otherwise legally parked is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and may be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).  
A person who is subject to the penalty prescribed in subsection (c)(2) of this section is not subject to the charging of points under Ohio R.C. 4510.036.
  - (3) The offense established under subsection (a) of this section is a strict liability offense and Ohio R.C. 2901.20 does not apply. The designation of this offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense. (ORC 4503.21)

### **335.10 EXPIRED OR UNLAWFUL LICENSE PLATES.**

(a) No person who is the owner of a motor vehicle which is parked or operated upon the public streets or highways shall fail to annually file the application for registration or to pay the tax therefor, as required by Ohio R.C. Chapter 4503. (ORC 4503.11)

(b) No person shall operate, drive or park upon the public streets or highways a motor vehicle acquired from a former owner who has registered the motor vehicle, while the motor vehicle displays the distinctive number or identification mark assigned to it upon its original registration. (ORC 4549.11)

(c) No person who is the owner of a motor vehicle and a resident of Ohio shall operate, drive or park the motor vehicle upon the public streets or highways, while it displays a distinctive number or identification mark issued by or under the authority of another state, without complying with the laws of Ohio relating to the registration and identification of motor vehicles. (ORC 4549.12)

(d) No person shall park or operate any vehicle upon any public street or highway upon which is displayed an expired license plate or an expired validation sticker.

(e) No person shall park or operate any vehicle upon any public street or highway upon which are displayed any license plates not legally registered and issued for such vehicle, or upon which are displayed any license plates that were issued on an application for registration that contains any false statement by the applicant.



- (f) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on each subsequent offense.
- (3) Whoever violates any provision of this section for which no other penalty is provided is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4549.11; 4549.12)

### **335.11 USE OF ILLEGAL LICENSE PLATES; TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION.**

(a) No person shall operate or drive a motor vehicle upon the streets in this Municipality if it displays a license plate or a distinctive number or identification mark that meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is fictitious;
- (2) Is a counterfeit or an unlawfully made copy of any distinctive number or identification mark;
- (3) Belongs to another motor vehicle, provided that this section does not apply to a motor vehicle that is operated on the streets in this Municipality when the motor vehicle displays license plates that originally were issued for a motor vehicle that previously was owned by the same person who owns the motor vehicle that is operated on the streets in this Municipality, during the thirty-day period described in subsection (c) hereof.

(b) Whoever violates subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section is guilty of operating a motor vehicle bearing an invalid license plate or identification mark, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the third degree on each subsequent offense.  
(ORC 4549.08)

(c) Upon the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle, the registration of the motor vehicle expires, and the original owner shall immediately remove the license plates from the motor vehicle. The transfer of the registration and, where applicable, the license plates from the motor vehicle for which they originally were issued to a succeeding motor vehicle purchased by the same person in whose name the original registration and license plates were issued shall be done within a period not to exceed thirty days. During that thirty-day period, the license plates from the motor vehicle for which they originally were issued may be displayed on the succeeding motor vehicle, and the succeeding motor vehicle may be operated on the streets of the Municipality.

(d) Whoever violates subsection (c) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 4503.12)

### **335.111 REGISTRATION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF RESIDENCY.**

(a) Within thirty days of becoming a resident of this State, any person who owns a motor vehicle operated or driven upon the public roads or highways shall register the vehicle in this State. If such a person fails to register a vehicle owned by the person, the person shall not operate any motor vehicle in this Municipality under a license issued by another state.

- (b) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (2) The offense established under subsection (b)(1) of this section is a strict liability offense and strict liability is a culpable mental state for purposes of Ohio R.C. 2901.20. The designation of this offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense.

(c) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, "resident" means any person to whom any of the following applies:

- (1) The person maintains their principal residence in this State and does not reside in this State as a result of the person's active service in the United States Armed Forces.
- (2) The person is determined by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to be a resident in accordance with standards adopted by the Registrar under Ohio R.C. 4507.01. (ORC 4503.111)

**335.12 STOPPING AFTER ACCIDENT UPON STREETS; COLLISION WITH UNATTENDED VEHICLE.**

- (a)
  - (1) In the case of a motor vehicle accident or collision with persons or property on a public road or highway, the operator of the motor vehicle, having knowledge of the accident or collision, immediately shall stop the operator's motor vehicle at the scene of the accident or collision. The operator shall remain at the scene of the accident or collision until the operator has given the operator's name and address and, if the operator is not the owner, the name and address of the owner of that motor vehicle, together with the registered number of that motor vehicle, to all of the following:
    - A. Any person injured in the accident or collision;
    - B. The operator, occupant, owner or attendant of any motor vehicle damaged in the accident or collision;
    - C. The police officer at the scene of the accident or collision.
  - (2) In the event an injured person is unable to comprehend and record the information required to be given under subsection (a)(1) of this section, the other operator involved in the accident or collision shall notify the nearest police authority concerning the location of the accident or collision, and the operator's name, address and the registered number of the motor vehicle the operator was operating. The operator shall remain at the scene of the accident or collision until a police officer arrives, unless removed from the scene by an emergency vehicle operated by a political subdivision or an ambulance.
  - (3) If the accident or collision is with an unoccupied or unattended motor vehicle, the operator who collides with the motor vehicle shall securely attach the information required to be given in this section, in writing, to a conspicuous place in or on the unoccupied or unattended motor vehicle.
- (b)
  - (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of failure to stop after an accident. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b)(2) or (3) of this section, failure to stop after an accident is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
  - (2) If the accident or collision results in serious physical harm to a person, failure to stop after an accident is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (3) If the accident or collision results in the death of a person, failure to stop after an accident is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (4) In all cases, the court, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, shall impose upon the offender a class five suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. No judge shall suspend the first six months of suspension of an offender's license, permit, or privilege required by this subsection.

The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.18 or 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the motor vehicle before, during or after committing the offense charged under this section. (ORC 4549.02)

### **335.13 STOPPING AFTER ACCIDENT UPON PROPERTY OTHER THAN STREET.**

- (a)
  - (1) In the case of a motor vehicle accident or collision resulting in injury or damage to persons or property on any public or private property other than a public road or highway, the operator of the motor vehicle, having knowledge of the accident or collision, shall stop at the scene of the accident or collision. Upon request of any person who is injured or damaged, or any other person, the operator shall give that person the operator's name and address, and, if the operator is not the owner, the name and address of the owner of that motor vehicle, together with the registered number of that motor vehicle, and, if available, exhibit the operator's driver's or commercial driver's license.
  - (2) If the operator of the motor vehicle involved in the accident or collision does not provide the information specified in subsection (a)(1) of this section, the operator shall give that information, within twenty-four hours after the accident or collision, to the Police Department.
  - (3) If the accident or collision is with an unoccupied or unattended motor vehicle, the operator who collides with the motor vehicle shall securely attach the information required under subsection (a)(1) of this section, in writing, to a conspicuous place in or on the unoccupied or unattended motor vehicle.
- (b)
  - (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of failure to stop after a nonpublic road accident. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b)(2) or (3) of this section, failure to stop after a nonpublic road accident is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
  - (2) If the accident or collision results in serious physical harm to a person, failure to stop after a nonpublic road accident is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (3) If the accident or collision results in the death of a person, failure to stop after a nonpublic road accident is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (4) In all cases, the court, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, shall impose upon the offender a class five suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. No judge shall suspend the first six months of suspension of an offender's license, permit, or privilege required by this subsection.

The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.18 or 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the motor vehicle before, during or after committing the offense charged under this section. (ORC 4549.021)

**335.14 VEHICLE ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO REALTY.**

(a) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in damage to real property, or personal property attached to real property, legally upon or adjacent to a public road or highway immediately shall stop and take reasonable steps to locate and notify the owner or person in charge of the property of that fact, of the driver's name and address, and of the registration number of the vehicle the driver is driving and, upon request and if available, shall exhibit the driver's or commercial driver's license.

If the owner or person in charge of the property cannot be located after reasonable search, the driver of the vehicle involved in the accident resulting in damage to the property, within twenty-four hours after the accident, shall forward to the police authority in the municipality in which the accident or collision occurred, the same information required to be given to the owner or person in control of the property and give the location of the accident and a description of the damage insofar as it is known.

(b) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of failure to stop after an accident involving the property of others, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the motor vehicle before, during or after committing the offense charged under this section. (ORC 4549.03)

**CHAPTER 337**  
**Safety and Equipment**

- |        |  |        |   |
|--------|--|--------|---|
| 337.01 | Driving unsafe vehicles.   | 337.17 | Focus and aim of headlights.                                    |
| 337.02 | Lighted lights; measurement of distances and heights.                      | 337.18 | Motor vehicle and motorcycle brakes.                            |
| 337.03 | Headlights on motor vehicles and motorcycles.                              | 337.19 | Horn, siren and theft alarm signal.                             |
| 337.04 | Tail light; illumination of rear license plate.                            | 337.20 | Muffler; muffler cutout; excessive smoke, gas or noise.         |
| 337.05 | Rear red reflectors.   | 337.21 | Rear-view mirror; clear view to front, both sides and rear.     |
| 337.06 | Safety lighting on commercial vehicles.                                    | 337.22 | Windshield and windshield wiper; sign or poster thereon.        |
| 337.07 | Obscured lights on vehicles in combination.                                | 337.23 | Limited load extension on left side of passenger vehicle.       |
| 337.08 | Red light or red flag on extended loads.                                   | 337.24 | Motor vehicle stop lights.                                      |
| 337.09 | Lights on parked or stopped vehicles.                                      | 337.25 | Air cleaner required.   |
| 337.10 | Lights on slow-moving vehicles; emblem required.                           | 337.26 | Child restraint system usage.                                   |
| 337.11 | Spotlight and auxiliary lights.  | 337.27 | Drivers and passengers required to wear seat belts.             |
| 337.12 | Cowl, fender and back-up lights.   | 337.28 | Use of suncreening, nontransparent and reflectorized materials. |
| 337.13 | Display of lighted lights.   | 337.29 | Bumper heights.   |
| 337.14 | Use of headlight beams.  | 337.30 | Motorcycle baffle plates and fenders.                           |
| 337.15 | Lights of less intensity on slow-moving vehicles.                          | 337.31 | Directional signals required.                                   |
| 337.16 | Number of lights; limitations on flashing, oscillating or rotating lights. | 337.32 | Jake brakes.  |

**CROSS REFERENCES**

- See sectional histories for similar State law
- Warning devices for commercial vehicles disabled upon freeways - see Ohio R.C. 4513.28
- Slow moving vehicle emblem - see OAC Ch. 4501.13
- Motorized bicycle lights and equipment - see Ohio R.C. 4511.521
- Vehicle lighting - see OAC 4501-15
- Use of stop and turn signals - see TRAF. 331.14
- Wheel protectors for commercial vehicles - see TRAF. 339.05
- Vehicles transporting explosives - see TRAF. 339.06
- Towing requirements - see TRAF. 339.07
- Use of studded tires and chains - see TRAF. 339.11
- Bicycle equipment - see TRAF. 373.05 et seq.

**337.01 DRIVING UNSAFE VEHICLES.**

(a) No person shall drive or move, or cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved, on any street any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person or property.

(b) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts and accessories on any vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

(c) The provisions of this chapter with respect to equipment on vehicles do not apply to implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers or agricultural tractors except as made applicable to such articles of machinery.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.02)

**337.02 LIGHTED LIGHTS; MEASUREMENT OF DISTANCES AND HEIGHTS.**

(a) Every vehicle, other than a motorized bicycle, operated upon a street or highway shall display lighted lights and illuminating devices as required by this chapter during all of the following times:

- (1) The time from sunset to sunrise;
- (2) At any other time when, due to insufficient natural light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons, vehicles, and substantial objects on the street or highway are not discernible at a distance of one thousand feet ahead;
- (3) At any time when the windshield wipers of the vehicle are in use because of precipitation on the windshield.

Every motorized bicycle shall display at such times lighted lights meeting the rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety under Ohio R.C. 4511.521. No motor vehicle, during any time specified in this section, shall be operated upon a street or highway using only parking lights as illumination.

(b) Whenever in this chapter a requirement is declared as to the distance from which certain lights and devices shall render objects visible, or within which such lights or devices shall be visible, such distance shall be measured upon a straight level unlighted street under normal atmospheric conditions unless a different condition is expressly stated.

(c) Whenever in this chapter a requirement is declared as to the mounted height of lights or devices, it shall mean from the center of such light or device to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause the operator of a vehicle being operated upon a street or highway to stop the vehicle solely because the officer observes that a violation of subsection (a)(3) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation or summons for a violation of that subsection, or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of that subsection.

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.03)

**337.03 HEADLIGHTS ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES.**

(a) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be equipped with at least two headlights with at least one near each side of the front of the motor vehicle.

(b) Every motorcycle shall be equipped with at least one and not more than two headlights.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.04)

**337.04 TAIL LIGHT; ILLUMINATION OF REAR LICENSE PLATE.**

(a) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer or vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles shall be equipped with at least one tail light mounted on the rear which, when lighted, shall emit a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, provided that in the case of a train of vehicles only the tail light on the rear-most vehicle need be visible from the distance specified.

(b) Either a tail light or a separate light shall be so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate, when such registration plate is required, and render it legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. Any tail light, together with any separate light for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the headlights or auxiliary driving lights are lighted, except where separate lighting systems are provided for trailers for the purpose of illuminating such registration plate.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.05)

**337.05 REAR RED REFLECTORS.**

(a) Every new motor vehicle sold after September 6, 1941, and operated on a street, other than vehicles of the type mentioned in Section 337.06 or a commercial tractor to which a trailer or semitrailer is attached, shall carry at the rear, either as a part of the tail lights or separately, two red reflectors of such size and characteristics and so maintained as to be visible at night from all distances within 300 feet to fifty feet from such vehicle.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.06)

**337.06 SAFETY LIGHTING ON COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.**

(a) Buses, trucks, commercial tractors, trailers, semitrailers and pole trailers, when operated upon any street, shall be equipped with clearance lights, marker lights, reflectors and stop lights as required by State regulations. Such equipment shall be lighted at all times mentioned in Section 337.02 except that clearance lights and side marker lights need not be lighted on a vehicle operated where there is sufficient light to reveal any person or substantial object on the street at a distance of 500 feet.

Such equipment shall be in addition to all other lights specifically required by Section 337.02 to Section 337.15, inclusive. Vehicles operated under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission are not subject to this section.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.07)

**337.07 OBSCURED LIGHTS ON VEHICLES IN COMBINATION.**

(a) Whenever motor and other vehicles are operated in combination during the time that lights are required, any light, except tail lights, which by reason of its location on a vehicle of the combination would be obscured by another vehicle of the combination need not be lighted, but this section does not affect the requirement that lighted clearance lights be displayed on the front of the foremost vehicle required to have clearance lights or that all lights required on the rear of the rearmost vehicle of any combination shall be lighted.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4513.08)

**337.08 RED LIGHT OR RED FLAG ON EXTENDED LOADS.**

(a) Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times specified in Section 337.02, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the side and rear. The red light or lantern required by this section is in addition to the red rear light required upon every vehicle. At any other time there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen inches square.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.09)



**337.09 LIGHTS ON PARKED OR STOPPED VEHICLES.**

(a) Except in case of an emergency, whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway open to traffic or shoulder adjacent thereto, whether attended or unattended during the times mentioned in Section 337.02, such vehicle shall be equipped with one or more lights which shall exhibit a white or amber light on the roadway side visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle, and a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. No lights need be displayed upon any such vehicle when it is stopped or parked where there is sufficient light to reveal any person or substantial object within a distance of 500 feet upon such street. Any lighted headlights upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.  
(ORC 4513.10)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

**337.10 LIGHTS ON SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES; EMBLEM REQUIRED.**

(a) All vehicles other than bicycles, including animal-drawn vehicles and vehicles referred to in Section 337.01(c), not specifically required to be equipped with lights or other lighting devices by Section 337.02 to 337.09, shall at all times specified in Section 337.02, be equipped with at least one light displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle, and also shall be equipped with two lights displaying red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear of the vehicle, or as an alternative, one light displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible from all distances of 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when illuminated by the lawful lower beams of headlights.

Lights and reflectors required or authorized by this section shall meet standards adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety.

(b) All boat trailers, farm machinery and other machinery, including all road construction machinery, upon a street or highway, except when being used in actual construction and maintenance work in an area guarded by a flagperson, or where flares are used, or when operating or traveling within the limits of a construction area designated by the Ohio Director of Transportation, or the Municipal or County Engineer, when such construction area is marked in accordance with requirements of the Director and the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as set forth in Ohio R.C. 4511.09, which is designed for operation at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less shall be operated at a speed not exceeding twenty-five miles per hour, and shall display a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem (SMV). The emblem shall be mounted so as to be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear. The Ohio Director of Public Safety shall adopt standards and specifications for the design and position of mounting the SMV emblem. The standards and specifications for SMV emblems referred to in this section shall correlate with and, so far as possible, conform with those approved by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

A unit of farm machinery that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour may be operated on a street or highway at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour provided it is operated in accordance with this section.

As used in this subsection (b), "machinery" does not include any vehicle designed to be drawn by an animal.

(c) The use of the SMV emblem shall be restricted to animal-drawn vehicles, and to the slow-moving vehicles specified in subsection (b) hereof operating or traveling within the limits of the highway. Its use on slow-moving vehicles being transported upon other types of vehicles or on any other type of vehicle or stationary object on the highway is prohibited.

- (d) (1) No person shall sell, lease, rent or operate any boat trailer, farm machinery or other machinery defined as a slow-moving vehicle in subsection (b) hereof, except those units designed to be completely mounted on a primary power unit, which is manufactured or assembled on or after April 1, 1966, unless the vehicle is equipped with a slow-moving vehicle emblem mounting device as specified in subsection (b) hereof.
- (2) No person shall sell, lease, rent, or operate on a street or highway any unit of farm machinery that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour unless the unit displays a slow-moving vehicle emblem as specified in subsection (b) of this section and a speed identification symbol that meets the specifications contained in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Standard ANSI/ASAE S584 JAN2005, agricultural equipment; speed identification symbol (SIS).

(e) Any boat trailer, farm machinery, or other machinery defined as a slow-moving vehicle in subsection (b) of this section, in addition to the use of the slow-moving vehicle emblem, and any unit of farm machinery that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour, in addition to the display of a speed identification symbol may be equipped with a red flashing light that shall be visible from a distance of not less than one thousand feet to the rear at all times specified in Section 337.02. When a double-faced light is used, it shall display amber light to the front and red light to the rear.

In addition to the lights described in this subsection, farm machinery and motor vehicles escorting farm machinery may display a flashing, oscillating or rotating amber light, as permitted by Section 337.16, and also may display simultaneously flashing turn signals or warning lights, as permitted by that section.

(f) Every animal-drawn vehicle upon a street or highway shall at all times be equipped in one of the following ways:

- (1) With a slow-moving vehicle emblem complying with subsection (b) hereof;
- (2) With alternate reflective material complying with rules adopted under this subsection (f);
- (3) With both a slow-moving vehicle emblem and alternate reflective material as specified in this subsection (f).

The Ohio Director of Public Safety, subject to Ohio R.C. Chapter 119, shall adopt rules establishing standards and specifications for the position of mounting of the alternate reflective material authorized by this subsection (f). The rules shall permit, as a minimum, the alternate reflective material to be black, gray or silver in color. The alternate reflective material shall be mounted on the animal-drawn vehicle so as to be visible at all times specified in Section 337.02, from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear when illuminated by the lawful lower beams of headlamps.

(g) Every unit of farm machinery that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour shall display a slow-moving vehicle emblem and a speed identification symbol that meets the specifications contained in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Standard ANSI/ASAE S584 JAN2005, agricultural equipment; speed identification symbol (SIS) when the unit is operated upon a street or highway, irrespective of the speed at which the unit is operated on the street or highway. The speed identification symbol shall indicate the maximum speed in miles per hour at which the unit of farm machinery is designed by its manufacturer to operate. The display of the speed identification symbol shall be in accordance with the standard prescribed in this subsection.

If an agricultural tractor that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour is being operated on a street or highway at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour and is towing, pulling or otherwise drawing a unit of farm machinery,

the unit of farm machinery shall display a slow-moving vehicle emblem and a speed identification symbol that is the same as the speed identification symbol that is displayed on the agricultural tractor.

(h) When an agricultural tractor that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour is being operated on a street or highway at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour, the operator shall possess some documentation published or provided by the manufacturer indicating the maximum speed in miles per hour at which the manufacturer designed the agricultural tractor to operate.

(i) As used in this section, "boat trailer" means any vehicle designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a street or highway for a distance of no more than ten miles and at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less.

(j) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.11)

### **337.11 SPOTLIGHT AND AUXILIARY LIGHTS.**

(a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one spotlight and every lighted spotlight shall be so aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam will be directed to the left of the prolongation of the extreme left side of the vehicle, nor more than 100 feet ahead of the vehicle.

(b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than three State approved auxiliary driving lights mounted on the front of the vehicle, which when used shall conform to State regulations.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.12)

### **337.12 COWL, FENDER AND BACK-UP LIGHTS.**

(a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with side cowl or fender lights or lights on each side thereof which shall emit a white or amber light without glare.

(b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with back-up lights, either separately or in combination with another light. No back-up lights shall be continuously lighted when the motor vehicle is in forward motion.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.13)

**337.13 DISPLAY OF LIGHTED LIGHTS.**

(a) At all times mentioned in Section 337.02 at least two State approved lighted lights shall be displayed conforming to State regulations, one near each side of the front of every motor vehicle, except when such vehicle is parked subject to the regulations governing lights on parked vehicles. (ORC 4513.14)

(b) However, on a motorcycle, there shall be displayed at least one and not more than two lighted lights as required herein.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.14)

**337.14 USE OF HEADLIGHT BEAMS.**

(a) Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times specified in Section 337.02, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons, vehicles and substantial objects at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, except that upon approaching an oncoming vehicle, the lights or beams shall be so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.15)

**337.15 LIGHTS OF LESS INTENSITY ON SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES.**

(a) Any motor vehicle may be operated under the conditions specified in Section 337.02 when it is equipped with two lighted lights upon the front thereof capable of revealing persons and substantial objects seventy-five feet ahead in lieu of lights required in Section 337.13, provided that such vehicle shall not be operated at a speed in excess of twenty miles per hour.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.16)

**337.16 NUMBER OF LIGHTS; LIMITATIONS ON FLASHING, OSCILLATING OR ROTATING LIGHTS.**

(a) Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with headlights also is equipped with any auxiliary lights or spotlight or any other light on the front thereof projecting a beam of an intensity greater than 300 candle power, not more than a total of five of any such lights on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any one time when the vehicle is upon a highway.

(b) Any lighted light or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle, other than headlights, spotlights, signal lights or auxiliary driving lights, that projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 300 candle power, shall be so directed that no part of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet from the vehicle.

- (c) (1) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles, except as a means for indicating a right or a left turn, or in the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, or overtaking or passing. This prohibition does not apply to emergency vehicles, road service vehicles servicing or towing a disabled vehicle, rural mail delivery vehicles, vehicles transporting preschool children as provided in Ohio R.C. 4513.182, highway maintenance vehicles, funeral hearses, funeral escort vehicles and similar equipment operated by the Department or local authorities, which shall be equipped with and display, when used on a street or highway for the special purpose necessitating such lights, a flashing, oscillating or rotating amber light, but shall not display a flashing, oscillating or rotating light of any other color, nor to vehicles or machinery permitted by Section 337.10 to have a flashing red light.
- (2) When used on a street or highway, farm machinery and vehicles escorting farm machinery may be equipped with and display a flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber light, and the prohibition contained in subsection (c)(1) hereof does not apply to such machinery or vehicles. Farm machinery also may display the lights described in Section 337.10.

(d) Except a person operating a public safety vehicle, as defined in Section 301.27, or a school bus, no person shall operate, move or park upon or permit to stand within the right of way of any public street or highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with and displaying a flashing red or a flashing combination red and white light, or an oscillating or rotating red light, or a combination red and white oscillating or rotating light; and except a public law enforcement officer, or other person sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the State or Municipality, operating a public safety vehicle when on duty, no person shall operate, move or park upon, or permit to stand within the right of way of any street or highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with, or upon which is mounted, and displaying a flashing blue or a flashing combination blue and white light, or an oscillating or rotating blue light, or a combination blue and white oscillating or rotating light.

(e) This section does not prohibit the use of warning lights required by law or the simultaneous flashing of turn signals on disabled vehicles or on vehicles being operated in unfavorable atmospheric conditions in order to enhance their visibility. This section also does not prohibit the simultaneous flashing of turn signals or warning lights either on farm machinery or vehicles escorting farm machinery, when used on a street or highway.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.17)

### **337.17 FOCUS AND AIM OF HEADLIGHTS.**

(a) No person shall use any lights mentioned in Section 337.02 to 337.16, inclusive, upon any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer unless the lights are equipped, mounted and adjusted as to focus and aim in accordance with State regulations.

(b) The headlights on any motor vehicle shall comply with the headlamp color requirements contained in federal motor vehicle safety standard number 108, 49 C.F.R. 571.108. No person shall operate a motor vehicle in violation of this subsection.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.19)

**337.18 MOTOR VEHICLE AND MOTORCYCLE BRAKES.**

(a) The following requirements govern as to brake equipment on vehicles:

- (1) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, when operated upon a street or highway, shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such motor vehicle, including two separate means of applying the brakes, each of which means shall be effective to apply the brakes to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the brakes are connected in any way, then on such motor vehicles manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1942, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without brakes on at least two wheels.
- (2) Every motorcycle, when operated upon a street or highway, shall be equipped with at least one adequate brake, which may be operated by hand or by foot.
- (3) Every motorized bicycle shall be equipped with brakes meeting the rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety under Ohio R.C. 4511.521.
- (4) When operated upon the streets or highways of this Municipality, the following vehicles shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold the vehicle designed to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab, and also designed and connected so that, in case of a breakaway of the towed vehicle, the brakes shall be automatically applied:
  - A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, every trailer or semitrailer, except a pole trailer, with an empty weight of two thousand pounds or more, manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1942;
  - B. Every manufactured home or travel trailer with an empty weight of two thousand pounds or more, manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 2001.
- (5) Every watercraft trailer with a gross weight or manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of three thousand pounds or more that is manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 2008, shall have separate brakes equipped with hydraulic surge or electrically operated brakes on two wheels.
- (6) In any combination of motor-drawn trailers or semitrailers equipped with brakes, means shall be provided for applying the rearmost brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes on the towing vehicle, and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost wheels at the fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on the rearmost brakes; or both of the above means, capable of being used alternatively, may be employed.
- (7) Every vehicle and combination of vehicles, except motorcycles and motorized bicycles, and except trailers and semitrailers of a gross weight of less than 2,000 pounds, and pole trailers, shall be equipped with parking brakes adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade on which it is operated, under all conditions of loading, on a surface free from snow, ice or loose material. The parking brakes shall be capable of being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements by the driver's muscular

effort or by spring action or by equivalent means. Their operation may be assisted by the service brakes or other sources of power provided that failure of the service brake actuation system or other power assisting mechanism will not prevent the parking brakes from being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements. The parking brakes shall be so designed that when once applied they shall remain applied with the required effectiveness despite exhaustion of any source of energy or leakage of any kind.

- (8) The same brake drums, brake shoes and lining assemblies, brake shoe anchors, and mechanical brake shoe actuation mechanism normally associated with the wheel brake assemblies may be used for both the service brakes and the parking brakes. If the means of applying the parking brakes and the service brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part shall not leave the vehicle without operative brakes.
- (9) Every motor vehicle or combination of motor-drawn vehicles shall be capable at all times and under all conditions of loading of being stopped on a dry, smooth, level road free from loose material, upon application of the service or foot brake, within the following specified distances, or shall be capable of being decelerated at a sustained rate corresponding to these distances:

	<u>From a speed of 20 miles per hour</u>	
	Stopping distance in feet	Deceleration in feet per second per second
Brakes on all wheels	30	14
Brakes not on all four wheels	40	10.7

- (10) All brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle. (ORC 4513.20)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

### **337.19 HORN, SIREN AND THEFT ALARM SIGNAL.**

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a street shall be equipped with a horn which is in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible, under normal conditions, from a distance of not less than 200 feet.

(b) No motor vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a vehicle, any siren, whistle or bell. Any vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which shall be so arranged that it cannot be used as an ordinary warning signal. Every emergency or public safety vehicle shall be equipped with a siren, whistle or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet and of a type approved by the Ohio Director of Public Safety. Such equipment shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or is in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which case the driver of the emergency or public safety vehicle shall sound such equipment when it is necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

(c) No person shall use the horn of a motor vehicle except to give warning to other drivers or pedestrians.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.21)

**337.20 MUFFLER; MUFFLER CUTOUT; EXCESSIVE SMOKE, GAS OR NOISE.**

(a) Every motor vehicle and motorcycle with an internal combustion engine shall at all times be equipped with a muffler which is in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise, and no person shall use a muffler cutout, by-pass or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a highway. Every motorcycle muffler shall be equipped with baffle plates.

(b) No person shall own, operate or have in the person's possession any motor vehicle or motorcycle equipped with a device for producing excessive smoke or gas, or so equipped as to permit oil or any other chemical to flow into or upon the exhaust pipe or muffler of such vehicle, or equipped in any other way to produce or emit smoke or dangerous or annoying gases from any portion of such vehicle, other than the ordinary gases emitted by the exhaust of an internal combustion engine under normal operation.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.22)

**337.21 REAR-VIEW MIRROR; CLEAR VIEW TO FRONT, BOTH SIDES AND REAR.**

(a) Every motor vehicle and motorcycle shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the operator a view of the street to the rear of such vehicle or motorcycle. Operators of vehicles and motorcycles shall have a clear and unobstructed view to the front and to both sides of their vehicles or motorcycles and shall have a clear view to the rear of their vehicles or motorcycles by mirror.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.23)

**337.22 WINDSHIELD AND WINDSHIELD WIPER; SIGN OR POSTER THEREON.**

(a) No person shall drive any motor vehicle on a street or highway, other than a motorcycle or motorized bicycle, that is not equipped with a windshield.

(b) (1) No person shall drive any motor vehicle, other than a bus, with any sign, poster or other nontransparent material upon the front windshield, sidewings, side or rear windows of such vehicle other than a certificate or other paper required to be displayed by law, except that there may be in the lower left-hand or right-hand corner of the windshield a sign, poster or decal not to exceed four inches in height by six inches in width. No sign, poster or decal shall be displayed in the front windshield in such a manner as to conceal the vehicle identification number for the motor vehicle when in accordance with federal law, that number is located inside the vehicle passenger compartment and so placed as to be readable through the vehicle glazing without moving any part of the vehicle.

(2) Subsection (b)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who is driving a passenger car with an electronic device, including an antenna, electronic tolling or other transponder, camera, directional navigation device, or other similar electronic device located in the front windshield if the device meets both of the following:



- A. It does not restrict the vehicle operator's sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals.
  - B. It does not conceal the vehicle identification number.
- (3) Subsection (b)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who is driving a commercial car with an electronic device, including an antenna, electronic tolling or other transponder, camera, directional navigation device, or other similar electronic device located in the front windshield if the device meets both of the following:
- A. It does not restrict the vehicle operator's sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals.
  - B. It is mounted not more than six inches below the upper edge of the windshield and is outside the area swept by the vehicle's windshield wipers.

(c) The windshield on every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow or other moisture from the windshield. The device shall be maintained in good working order and so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the operator of the vehicle.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.24)

### **337.23 LIMITED LOAD EXTENSION ON LEFT SIDE OF PASSENGER VEHICLE.**

(a) No passenger-type vehicle shall be operated on a street with any load carried on such vehicle which extends more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the vehicle's left side. (ORC 4513.30)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

### **337.24 MOTOR VEHICLE STOP LIGHTS.**

(a) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer when operated upon a street or highway shall be equipped with two or more stop lights, except that passenger cars manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1967, motorcycles, and motor-driven cycles shall be equipped with at least one stop light. Stop lights shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle, actuated upon application of the service brake, and may be incorporated with other rear lights. Such stop lights when actuated shall emit a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear, provided that in the case of a train of vehicles only the stop lights on the rear-most vehicle need be visible from the distance specified.

Such stop lights when actuated shall give a steady warning light to the rear of a vehicle or train of vehicles to indicate the intention of the operator to diminish the speed of or stop a vehicle or train of vehicles.

When stop lights are used as required by this section, they shall be constructed or installed so as to provide adequate and reliable illumination and shall conform to the appropriate rules and regulations established under Ohio R.C. 4513.19.

Historical motor vehicles as defined in Ohio R.C. 4503.181, not originally manufactured with stop lights, are not subject to this section.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.071)

**337.25 AIR CLEANER REQUIRED.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle with an internal combustion engine unless the carburetion system of the vehicle is protected with an air filter, a flame arresting device, or any other accepted method of protection that is adequate for this purpose. If the original device or system is replaced, it shall be replaced with one that is equal to or better than the original equipment.

(b) This section does not apply to a person doing automotive repair work on a motor vehicle that necessitates this device being removed while the work is performed.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**337.26 CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM USAGE.**

(a) When any child who is in either or both of the following categories is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public safety vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01, that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor safety standards:

- (1) A child who is less than four years of age;
- (2) A child who weighs less than forty pounds.

(b) When any child who is in either or both of the following categories is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab, that is owned, leased or otherwise under the control of a nursery school, or day-care center, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards:

- (1) A child who is less than four years of age;
- (2) A child who weighs less than forty pounds.

(c) When any child who is less than eight years of age and less than four feet nine inches in height, who is not required by subsection (a) or (b) of this section to be secured in a child restraint system, is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public safety vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01 or a vehicle that is regulated under Ohio R.C. 5104.011, that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on a booster seat that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(d) When any child who is at least eight years of age but not older than fifteen years of age and who is not otherwise required by subsection (a), (b) or (c) hereof to be secured in a child restraint system or booster seat, is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public safety vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01, that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly restrained either in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards or in an occupant restraining device as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.263.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of a motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the motor vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons for a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section, and absent another violation of law, a law enforcement officer's view of the interior or visual inspection of a motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway may not be used for the purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section has been or is being committed.

(f) The Ohio Director of Public Safety shall adopt such rules as are necessary to carry out this section.

(g) The failure of an operator of a motor vehicle to secure a child in a child restraint system, a booster seat or an occupant restraining device as required by this section is not negligence imputable to the child, is not admissible as evidence in any civil action involving the rights of the child against any other person allegedly liable for injuries to the child, is not to be used as a basis for a criminal prosecution of the operator of the motor vehicle other than a prosecution for a violation of this section, and is not admissible as evidence in any criminal action involving the operator of the motor vehicle other than a prosecution for a violation of this section.

(h) This section does not apply when an emergency exists that threatens the life of any person operating or occupying a motor vehicle that is being used to transport a child who otherwise would be required to be restrained under this section. This section does not apply to a person operating a motor vehicle who has an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4731 or a chiropractor licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4734 that states that the child who otherwise would be required to be restrained under this section has a physical impairment that makes use of a child restraint system, booster seat or an occupant restraining device impossible or impractical, provided that the person operating the vehicle has safely and appropriately restrained the child in accordance with any recommendations of the physician or chiropractor as noted on the affidavit.

(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any person to carry with the person the birth certificate of a child to prove the age of the child, but the production of a valid birth certificate for a child showing that the child was not of an age to which this section applies is a defense against any ticket, citation or summons issued for violating this section.

(j) Whoever violates subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section shall be punished as follows, provided that the failure of an operator of a motor vehicle to secure more than one child in a child restraint system, booster seat, or occupant restraining device as required by this section that occurred at the same time, on the same day, and at the same location is deemed to be a single violation of this section:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (j)(2) of this section, the offender is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).
- (2) If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section or of a state law or municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any of those subsections, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.  
(ORC 4511.81)

**337.27 DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS REQUIRED TO WEAR SEAT BELTS.**

- (a) As used in this section:
- (1) "Automobile" means any commercial tractor, passenger car, commercial car or truck that is required to be factory-equipped with an occupant restraining device for the operator or any passenger by regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of Transportation pursuant to the "National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966," 80 Stat. 719, 15 U.S.C.A. 1392.
  - (2) "Occupant restraining device" means a seat safety belt, shoulder belt, harness or other safety device for restraining a person who is an operator of or passenger in an automobile and that satisfies the minimum Federal vehicle safety standards established by the United States Department of Transportation.
  - (3) "Passenger" means any person in an automobile, other than its operator, who is occupying a seating position for which an occupant restraining device is provided.
  - (4) "Commercial tractor," "passenger car," and "commercial car" have the same meanings as provided in Ohio R.C. 4501.01.
  - (5) "Vehicle" and "motor vehicle", as used in the definitions of the terms set forth in subsection (a)(4) hereof, have the same meanings as provided in Chapter 301.
  - (6) "Tort action" means a civil action for damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property. "Tort action" includes a product liability claim, as defined in Ohio R.C. 2307.71 and an asbestos claim, as defined in Ohio R.C. 2307.91, but does not include a civil action for damages for breach of contract or another agreement between persons.
- (b) No person shall do either of the following:
- (1) Operate an automobile on any street or highway unless that person is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device, or operate a school bus that has an occupant restraining device installed for use in its operator's seat unless that person is wearing all of the available elements of the device, as properly adjusted;
  - (2) Operate an automobile on any street or highway unless each passenger in the automobile who is subject to the requirement set forth in subsection (b)(3) hereof is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device;
  - (3) Occupy, as a passenger, a seating position on the front seat of an automobile being operated on any street or highway unless that person is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device;
  - (4) Operate a taxicab on any street or highway unless all factory-equipped occupant restraining devices in the taxicab are maintained in usable form.

(c) Subsection (b)(3) hereof does not apply to a person who is required by Section 337.26 to be secured in a child restraint device or booster seat. Subsection (b)(1) hereof does not apply to a person who is an employee of the United States Postal Service or of a newspaper home delivery service, during any period in which the person is engaged in the operation of an automobile to deliver mail or newspapers to addressees. Subsections (b)(1) and (3) hereof do not apply to a person who has an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4731 or a chiropractor licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4734 that states that the person has a physical impairment that makes use of an occupant restraining device impossible or impractical.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of an automobile being operated on any street or highway to stop the automobile for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (b) hereof has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation or summons for a violation of that nature or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of that nature, and no law enforcement officer shall view the interior or visually inspect any automobile being operated on any street or highway for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of that nature has been or is being committed.

(e) All fines collected for violations of subsection (b) hereof shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of State for deposit as provided in Ohio R.C. 4513.263.

- (f) (1) Subject to subsection (f)(2) of this section, the failure of a person to wear all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device in violation of subsection (b)(1) or (3) or the failure of a person to ensure that each minor who is a passenger of an automobile being operated by that person is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device, in violation of subsection (b)(2) of this section, shall not be considered or used by the trier of fact in a tort action as evidence of negligence or contributory negligence. But the trier of fact may determine based on evidence admitted consistent with the Ohio rules of evidence that the failure contributed to the harm alleged in the tort action and may diminish a recovery of compensatory damages that represents noneconomic loss, as defined in Ohio R.C. 2307.011 in a tort action that could have been recovered but for the plaintiff's failure to wear all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device. Evidence of that failure shall not be used as a basis for a criminal prosecution of the person other than a prosecution for a violation of this section; and shall not be admissible as evidence in a criminal action involving the person other than a prosecution for a violation of this section.
- (2) If, at the time of an accident involving a passenger car equipped with occupant restraining devices, any occupant of the passenger car who sustained injury or death was not wearing an available occupant restraining device, was not wearing all of the available elements of such a device, or was not wearing such a device as properly adjusted, then, consistent with the Rules of Evidence, the fact that the occupant was not wearing the available occupant restraining device, was not wearing all of the available elements of such a device, or was not wearing such a device as properly adjusted is admissible in evidence in relation to any claim for relief in a tort action to the extent that the claim for relief satisfies all of the following:
- A. It seeks to recover damages for injury or death to the occupant.
  - B. The defendant in question is the manufacturer, designer, distributor or seller of the passenger car.
  - C. The claim for relief against the defendant in question is that the injury or death sustained by the occupant was enhanced or aggravated by some design defect in the passenger car or that the passenger car was not crashworthy.
- (g) (1) Whoever violates subsection (b)(1) of this section shall be fined thirty dollars (\$30.00).
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (b)(3) of this section shall be fined twenty dollars (\$20.00).

- (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (b)(4) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (b)(4) of this section, whoever violates subsection (b)(4) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4513.263)

**337.28 USE OF SUNSCREENING, NONTRANSPARENT AND REFLECTORIZED MATERIALS.**

(a) Requirements.

- (1) No person shall operate, on any highway or other public or private property open to the public for vehicular travel or parking, lease, or rent any motor vehicle that is required to be registered in this State with any suncreening material, or other product or material which has the effect of making the windshield or windows nontransparent or would alter the windows' color, increase its reflectivity, or reduce its light transmittance, unless the product or material satisfies one of the following exceptions:
- A. Any manufacturer's tinting or glazing of motor vehicle windows or windshields that is otherwise in compliance with or permitted by "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS 205) in effect at the time of the manufacture of the motor vehicle until such standard is subsequently repealed or reduced. In "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS 205) "manufacturer" means any person engaged in the manufacturing or assembling of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, including any person importing motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment for resale. "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS), Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 571, can be obtained online at web site <http://www.gpo.gov>.
  - B. Any sunscreening material or other product or material applied to the windshield when used in conjunction with the safety glazing materials of such window, has a light transmittance of not less than seventy per cent plus or minus three per cent and is not red or yellow in color.
  - C. Any sunscreening material or other product or material applied to the side windows to the immediate right or left of the driver, so long as such material, when used in conjunction with the safety glazing materials of such windows, has a light transmittance of not less than fifty per cent plus or minus three per cent and is not red or yellow in color.
  - D. Any sunscreening material or other product or material applied to a window not otherwise listed in subsections (a)(1)A. to C. or E. of this section, except that outside left and right rear view mirrors are required if the sunscreening material is applied to the rear window and the sunscreening material, when used in conjunction with the safety glazing material of such window, has a light transmittance of less than fifty per cent plus or minus three per cent.
  - E. Any sunscreening material or other product or material applied along the top of the windshield and that does not extend downward beyond the AS-1 line or five inches from the top of the windshield, whichever is closer to the top, is not regulated by this section.
- (2) No person shall install in any motor vehicle any glass or other material that fails to conform to the specifications of this section.

- (3) No used motor vehicle dealer or new motor vehicle dealer, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4517.01, shall sell any motor vehicle that fails to conform to the specifications of this section.
  - (4) No reflectorized materials shall be permitted upon or in any front windshield, side windows, sidewings or rear window.
  - (5) No person shall operate on any highway or other public or private property open to the public for vehicular travel or parking, lease, or rent any motor vehicle that is required to be registered in this State that is equipped with privacy drapes, louvers, curtains or blinds unless the drapes, louvers, curtains or blinds are open and secure during vehicle operation.
  - (6) All motor vehicles, beginning with the 1990 model year, must be equipped with labels identifying sunscreening material. All sunscreening material must indicate the manufacturer's name and the percentage level of light transmission of the material permanently installed between the material and the surface to which the material is applied or affixed. Such label must be legible and must be placed in the lower left-hand corner of the vehicle window when viewed from the outside. (OAC 4501-41-03)
- (b) Exemptions. The provisions of this section do not apply to:
- (1) A motor vehicle registered in this State in the name of a person, or the person's parent, legal guardian or spouse who has an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4731 or an affidavit signed by an optometrist licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4725 that states that the person has a physical condition that makes it necessary to equip such motor vehicle with sunscreening material which would be of a light transmittance and/or luminous reflectance in violation of this section. Such affidavit shall be in the possession of the person so afflicted or the driver at all times while in the motor vehicle;
  - (2) The windows to the rear of the driver in chauffeured limousines as defined herein;
  - (3) The windows to the rear of the driver in those vehicles designed and used to transport corpses which include hearses and other vehicles adapted for such use; and
  - (4) The manufacturer's tinting or glazing of motor vehicle windows or windshields that is otherwise in compliance with or permitted by "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS 205) in effect at the time of the manufacture of the motor vehicle as provided in subsection (a) hereof. "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS 205), Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 571, can be obtained online at web site <http://www.gpo.gov>. (OAC 4501-41-05)
- (c) Definitions. As used in this section, certain terms are defined as follows:
- (1) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as specified in Section 301.20.
  - (2) "Sunscreening material" means products or materials, including film, glazing and perforated sunscreening, which, when applied to the windshield or windows of a motor vehicle, reduce the effects of the sun with respect to light reflectance or transmittance.
  - (3) "Transmittance" means the ratio of the amount of total light, expressed in percentages, which is allowed to pass through the product or material, including glazing, to the amount of total light falling on the product or material and the glazing.
  - (4) "Windshield" means the front exterior viewing device of a motor vehicle.
  - (5) "Window" means any device designed for exterior viewing from a motor vehicle, except the windshield or any roof-mounted viewing device.

- (6) "Manufacturer" unless otherwise specified in this section, means any person who engages in the manufacturing or assembling of sunscreening products or materials or any person who fabricates, laminates or tempers a safety glazing material, incorporating, during the manufacturing process, the capacity to reflect or reduce the transmission of light.
- (7) "Chauffeured limousine" means a motor vehicle that is designed to carry nine or fewer passengers and is operated for hire on an hourly basis pursuant to a prearranged contract for the transportation of passengers on public roads and highways along a route under the control of the person hiring the vehicle and not over a defined and regular route. "Prearranged contract" means an arrangement, made in advance of boarding, to provide transportation from a specific location in a chauffeured limousine at a fixed rate per hour or trip. "Chauffeured limousine" does not include any vehicle that is used exclusively in the business of funeral directing. (OAC 4501-41-02)

(d) Penalty. Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.241)

### **337.29 BUMPER HEIGHTS.**

(a) Definitions.

- (1) "Passenger car" means any motor vehicle with motive power, designed for carrying ten persons or less, except a multipurpose passenger vehicle or motorcycle.
- (2) "Multipurpose passenger vehicle" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a motorcycle, designed to carry ten persons or less, that is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road operation.
- (3) "Truck" means every motor vehicle, except trailers and semitrailers, designed and used to carry property and having a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less.
- (4) "Manufacturer" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4501.01.
- (5) "Gross vehicle weight rating" means the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating established for the vehicle.
- (6) "Body floor height" means the vertical distance between top of the frame rail and the bottom of the passenger compartment (cab) floor. In the event that the vehicle is a truck body, floor height will be measured by the vertical distance between the passenger compartment (cab) floor and the floor of the truck bed.
- (7) "Bumper height" means the vertical distance between the ground and the highest point of the bottom of the bumper, measured when the vehicle is laden on a level surface with the vehicle tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure.
- (8) "Frame" means the main longitudinal structural members of the chassis of the vehicle or, for vehicles with unitized body construction, the lowest main longitudinal structural members of the body of the vehicle.
- (9) "Wheel track distance" means the distance on the ground between the center of the tire tread on one side of the vehicle, and the center of the tire tread on the opposite side. (OAC 4501-43-02)



(b) Prohibitions; Application.

- (1) No person shall operate upon a street or highway any passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State that does not conform to the requirements of this section.
- (2) No person shall modify any motor vehicle registered in this State in such a manner as to cause the vehicle body or chassis to come in contact with the ground, expose the fuel tank to damage from collision, or cause the wheels to come in contact with the body under normal operation, and no person shall disconnect any part of the original suspension system of the vehicle to defeat the safe operation of that system including the installation of inverted, altered or modified suspension system component parts which results in elevation of the height of the vehicle bumper or frame unit which is not in compliance with this section.
- (3) No person shall operate upon a street or highway any passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State without a bumper on the front and rear of the vehicle if such vehicle was equipped with bumpers as standard equipment by the manufacturer.
- (4) No person shall operate upon a street or highway any passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State if the difference in height between the body floor and the top of the frame exceeds four inches.
- (5) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit either of the following:
  - A. The installation upon a passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State of heavy duty equipment, including shock absorbers and overload springs as long as such equipment does not cause the vehicle to be in violation of this section;
  - B. The operation on a street or highway of a passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State with normal wear to the suspension system if the normal wear does not adversely affect the control of the vehicle.
- (6) This section does not apply to any specially designed or modified passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck when operated off a street or highway in races and similar events.
- (7) A specially designed or modified passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck which does not conform to this section shall not be operated on a street or highway.  
(OAC 4501-43-03)

(c) Specifications.

- (1) The horizontal bumper shall be at least 4.5 inches in vertical height, centered on the vehicle's centerline, and extend no less than the width of the respective wheel track distances. Bumpers shall be horizontal load bearing bumpers and attached to the vehicle frame to effectively transfer impact when engaged.
- (2) Maximum bumper heights shall be determined by the type of vehicle at time of manufacture. If other than a passenger vehicle, the maximum bumper height shall be determined by the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) at the time of manufacture. The height shall be measured in terms of the vertical distance between the ground and the bottom of the bumper. Maximum bumper heights are as follows:

	<u>Front (inches)</u>	<u>Rear (inches)</u>
Passenger Vehicles	22	22
All Other Vehicles:		
4,500 lbs. and under GVWR	24	26
4,501 lbs. to 7,500 lbs. GVWR	27	29
7,501 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. GVWR	28	31

- (3) If the body and/or truck bed height is altered the difference in height between the body floor and/or the truck bed floor to the top of the frame rail shall not exceed four inches.
- (4) For any vehicle with bumpers or attaching components which have been modified or altered from the original manufacturer's design in order to conform with the maximum bumper requirements of this section, the bumper height shall be measured from a level surface to the bottom of the vehicle frame rail at the most forward and rearward points of the frame rail. Frame rail height if bumper modified or altered:

	<u>Front (inches)</u>	<u>Rear (inches)</u>
Passenger Vehicles	22	22
All Other Vehicles:		
4,500 lbs. and under GVWR	24	26
4,501 lbs. to 7,500 lbs. GVWR	27	29
7,501 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. GVWR	28	31

- (5) The height restriction in this subsection (c) applies to the distance from the ground to the bottom of the frame rail under any one or more of the following conditions:
- A. A motor vehicle is not equipped with a front and rear bumper.
  - B. The bumper height relative to the frame rails has been altered.
  - C. A supplemental bumper has been installed or an addition to the original or replacement has been made. (OAC 4501-43-04)

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.021)

### **337.30 MOTORCYCLE BAFFLE PLATES AND FENDERS.**

(a) Baffle Plates. No person shall own, operate or have in his or her possession any two-wheel motor-driven bicycle, motor scooter or motorcycle, equipped with a muffler from which the baffle plates, screens or other original internal parts have been removed and not replaced, or equipped with an exhaust system or muffler which is defective, inadequate, improperly maintained, or which has been modified in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the muffler originally installed.

(b) Fenders. No person shall own or operate a two-wheel motor-driven bicycle, motor scooter or motorcycle without having fenders equipped on the vehicle upon the front and rear wheels, or wheels of sufficient size and length so as to protect the driver against mud, rocks and debris from being tossed or thrown at or away from such vehicle.

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**337.31 DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS REQUIRED.**

- (a) (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1954, unless the vehicle is equipped with electrical or mechanical directional signals.
- (2) No person shall operate any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1968, unless the vehicle is equipped with electrical or mechanical directional signals.

(b) “Directional signals” means an electrical or mechanical signal device capable of clearly indicating an intention to turn either to the right or to the left and which shall be visible from both the front and rear.

(c) All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminating devices when in use at the times mentioned in Section 337.02.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.261)

**337.32 JAKE BRAKES.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for the driver of any motor vehicle other than emergency vehicles to be used or caused to be used or operated within the City of Moraine any mechanical exhaust device to design in the aid of braking or deceleration of any vehicle which results in excessive loud or explosive noise from such vehicle, otherwise known as “Jake-braking”.

(b) Signs shall be posted at all major points in the City of Moraine indicating that such mechanical exhaust braking system which results in excessive, loud or explosive noise are prohibited in the City of Moraine, except for the use necessary by emergency vehicles.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on a subsequent offense within one year after the first offense such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (Ord. 1528-04. Passed 4-22-04.)



**CHAPTER 339**  
**Commercial and Heavy Vehicles**

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| <p><b>339.01</b> Oversize or overweight vehicle operation on State routes; State permit.</p> <p><b>339.02</b> Truck routes; use of local streets.</p> <p><b>339.03</b> Maximum width, height and length.</p> <p><b>339.04</b> Route and load information.</p> <p><b>339.05</b> Wheel protectors.</p> <p><b>339.06</b> Vehicles transporting explosives.</p> <p><b>339.07</b> Towing requirements.</p> <p><b>339.08</b> Loads dropping or leaking; removal required; tracking mud.</p> | <p><b>339.09</b> Shifting load; loose loads.</p> <p><b>339.10</b> Vehicles with spikes, lugs and chains.</p> <p><b>339.11</b> Use of studded tires and chains.</p> <p><b>339.12</b> Display of warning devices on disabled vehicles.</p> <p><b>339.13</b> Weighing vehicle; scales to be used; removal of excess load.</p> <p><b>339.14</b> Weight of vehicles.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Weighing vehicle; removal of excess load - see Ohio R.C. 4513.33  
 Arrest notice of driver - see Ohio R.C. 5577.14  
 Slower moving vehicles to be driven in right-hand lane - see  
 TRAF. 331.01(b)

**339.01 OVERSIZE OR OVERWEIGHT VEHICLE OPERATION ON STATE ROUTES; STATE PERMIT.**

(a) No person shall operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in Ohio R.C. 5577.01 to 5577.09, inclusive, or otherwise not in conformity with Ohio R.C. 4513.01 to 4513.37, inclusive, upon any State route within the Municipality, except pursuant to special written permit issued by the Ohio Director of Transportation, or upon any local truck route. Every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any police officer.

No holder of a permit issued by the Ohio Director of Transportation shall be required to obtain any local permit or license or pay any local fee or charge for movement on any State route within the Municipality; however, it shall be unlawful to operate any such vehicle or combination of vehicles upon any roadway within the Municipality which is not a State route, except as provided in Section 339.02. (ORC 4513.34)

- (b) (1) No person shall violate the terms of a permit issued under this section that relate to gross load limits.
- (2) No person shall violate the terms of a permit issued under this section that relate to axle load by more than 2000 pounds per axle or group of axles.
- (3) No person shall violate the terms of a permit issued under this section that relate to an approved route except upon order of a law enforcement officer or authorized agent of the issuing authority.

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section for which no other penalty is provided is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.99)

### **339.02 TRUCK ROUTES; USE OF LOCAL STREETS.**

(a) Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings ascribed to them respectively.

- (1) “Commercial activity” means any activity or service undertaken as part of or in advancement of a commercial enterprise or business.
- (2) “Deviating truck” means a truck which leaves and departs from a truck route while traveling inside the City.
- (3) “Truck” means any vehicle that is operated for the purpose of commercial activity, is designed or operated primarily for the transportation of property, and has a gross weight in excess of 6,000 pounds.
- (4) “Truck route” means a way over certain streets, as designated herein, over and along which trucks coming into and going out of the City must operate.

(b) Application of Section. All trucks within the City shall be operated only over and along the truck routes herein established and on the other designated streets over which truck travel is permitted.

(1) Exceptions. This section shall not prohibit:

- A. City truck traffic. Operation on streets of origin or destination provided such operation is in accordance with subsection (d) hereof.
- B. Emergency vehicles. The operation of emergency vehicles upon any street in the City.
- C. Public utilities. The operation of trucks owned or operated by the City, public utilities, any contractor or a material man, while engaged in the repair, maintenance or construction of streets, street improvements or street utilities within the City.
- D. Detoured trucks. The operation of trucks upon any officially established detour in any case where the truck could lawfully be operated upon the street for which the detour is established.

(c) Truck Routes Established. There are established within the City the following truck routes:

- (1) Springboro Pike
- (2) Dryden Road

- (3) Interstate 75
- (4) East River Road
- (5) Kettering Boulevard
- (6) South Dixie Drive
- (7) Stroop Road
- (8) Dorothy Lane
- (9) Springboro Road
- (10) Northlawn Avenue (only that portion which runs between Dryden Road and Springboro Road).
- (11) Main Street (only that portion which runs between Dryden Road and Springboro Road).
- (12) Union Road from the north City limits approximately 1,082 feet from the intersection of Union Road and Hemple Road to State Route 4/Germantown Pike.
- (13) Cardington Road.
- (14) Encrete Road.
- (15) State Route 4 (aka Germantown Pike). (Ord. 1731-09. Passed 2-12-09.)
- (16) Soldiers Home-Miamisburg Road (NOTE: It is intended that such designation be temporary and will be repealed after completion of the referenced bridge construction.)

(d) Truck Traffic in the City.

- (1) Outside Origin; Outside Destination. All trucks entering the City for the purpose of commercial activity from points outside the City and proceeding directly to a destination point outside the City shall operate only over the designated truck routes and shall be prohibited from using municipal streets and roadways not designated as truck routes for purposes of access to or links between truck routes.
- (2) Outside Origin; Inside Destination.
  - A. One inside destination point. All trucks entering the City for the purpose of commercial activity from a destination point in the City shall proceed only over an established truck route and shall deviate only at the intersection nearest to the destination point. Upon leaving the destination point, a deviating truck shall return to the truck route by the shortest permissible route.
  - B. Multiple inside destination points. All trucks entering the City for the purpose of commercial activity which has multiple destination points shall proceed only over established truck routes and shall deviate only at the intersection nearest to the first destination point. Upon leaving the first destination point, a deviating truck shall proceed to other destination points by the shortest and most direct course. Upon leaving the last destination point, a deviating truck shall return to a truck route by the shortest permissible route.
- (3) Inside Origin.
  - A. Outside destination point. All trucks being operated for the purpose of commercial activity, on a trip originating in the City and traveling in the City for a destination point outside the City, shall proceed by the shortest and most direct course over streets to a truck route as herein established.
  - B. Inside destination point. All trucks being operated for the purpose of commercial activity, on a trip originating in the City and traveling in the City for destination points in the City, shall proceed only by the shortest and most direct course.

(e) Signs. The City Manager shall cause all truck routes to be clearly sign posted to give notice that this section is in effect.

(f) Compliance Required. No person shall drive a truck over any public street within the City except upon those streets herein designated as truck routes and except upon streets providing the shortest and most direct course between truck routes and origin or destination points as herein provided.

(g) Penalty. Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense. On a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree and on each subsequent offense within one year of the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(Ord. 1987-17. Passed 11-9-17.)

(e) Signs. The City Manager shall cause all truck routes to be clearly sign posted to give notice that this section is in effect.

### **339.03 MAXIMUM WIDTH, HEIGHT AND LENGTH.**

(a) No vehicle shall be operated upon the public highways, streets, bridges and culverts within the Municipality, whose dimensions exceed those specified in this section.

(b) No such vehicle shall have a width in excess of:

- (1) 104 inches for passenger bus type vehicles operated exclusively within municipal corporations;
- (2) 102 inches, excluding such safety devices as are required by law, for passenger bus type vehicles operated over freeways, and such other State roads with minimum pavement widths of twenty-two feet, except those roads or portions of roads over which operation of 102-inch buses is prohibited by order of the Ohio Director of Transportation;
- (3) 132 inches for traction engines;
- (4) 102 inches for recreational vehicles, excluding safety devices and retracted awnings and other appurtenances of six inches or less in width and except that the Director may prohibit the operation of 102-inch recreational vehicles on designated State highways or portions of highways;
- (5) 102 inches, including load, for all other vehicles, except that the Director may prohibit the operation of 102-inch vehicles on such State highways or portions of State highways as the Director designates.

(c) No such vehicle shall have a length in excess of:

- (1) 66 feet for passenger bus type vehicles and articulated passenger bus type vehicles operated by a regional transit authority pursuant to Ohio R.C. 306.30 to 306.54;
- (2) 45 feet for all other passenger bus type vehicles;
- (3) 53 feet for any semitrailer when operated in a commercial tractor-semitrailer combination, with or without load, except that the Director may, by journal entry, prohibit the operation of any such commercial tractor-semitrailer combination on such State highways or portions of State highways as the Director designates;
- (4) 28.5 feet for any semitrailer or trailer when operated in a commercial tractor-semitrailer-trailer or commercial tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination, except that the Director may prohibit the operation of any such commercial tractor-semitrailer-trailer or commercial tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination on such State highways or portions of State highways as the Director designates;



- (5) A. 97 feet for drive-away saddlemount vehicle transporter combinations and drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle transporter combinations when operated on any interstate, United States route, or State route, including reasonable access travel on all other roadways for a distance not to exceed one road mile from any interstate, United States route, or State route, not to exceed three saddlemounted vehicles, but which may include one fullmount;
- B. 75 feet for drive-away saddlemount vehicle transporter combinations and drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle transporter combinations, when operated on any roadway not designated as an interstate, United States route, or State route, not to exceed three saddlemounted vehicles, but which may include one fullmount;
- (6) 65 feet for any other combination of vehicles coupled together, with or without load, except as provided in subsections (c)(3) and (4) and in subsection (e) hereof;
- (7) 45 feet for recreational vehicles.
- (8) 50 feet for all other vehicles except trailers and semitrailers, with or without load.

(d) No such vehicle shall have a height in excess of thirteen feet six inches, with or without load.

(e) An automobile transporter or boat transporter shall be allowed a length of sixty-five feet and a stinger-steered automobile transporter or stinger-steered boat transporter shall be allowed a length of seventy-five feet, except that the load thereon may extend no more than four feet beyond the rear of such vehicles and may extend no more than three feet beyond the front of such vehicles, and except further that the Director may prohibit the operation of any stinger-steered automobile transporter or stinger-steered boat transporter or a B-train assembly on any State highway or portion of any State highway that the Director designates.

(f) The widths prescribed in subsection (b) shall not include side mirrors, turn signal lamps, marker lamps, handholds for cab entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, mud flaps, splash and spray suppressant devices, and load-induced tire bulge.

The width prescribed in subsection (b)(5) shall not include automatic covering devices, tarp and tarp hardware, and tiedown assemblies, provided these safety devices do not extend more than three inches from each side of the vehicle.

The lengths prescribed in subsections (c)(2) to (8) hereof shall not include safety devices, bumpers attached to the front or rear of such bus or combination, nonproperty carrying devices or components that do not extend more than twenty-four inches beyond the rear of the vehicle and are needed for loading or unloading, B-train assembly used between the first and second semitrailer of a commercial tractor-semi-trailer-semi-trailer combination, energy conservation devices as provided in any regulations adopted by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, or any noncargo-carrying refrigeration equipment attached to the front of trailers and semitrailers. In special cases, vehicles whose dimensions exceed those prescribed by this section may operate in accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Transportation.

(g) This section does not apply to fire engines, fire trucks or other vehicles or apparatus belonging to any municipal corporation or to the volunteer fire department of any municipal corporation or used by such department in the discharge of its functions. This section does not apply to vehicles and pole trailers used in the transportation of wooden and metal poles, nor to the transportation of pipes or well-drilling equipment, nor to farm machinery and equipment. The owner or operator of any vehicle, machinery or equipment not specifically enumerated in this section but the dimensions of which exceed the dimensions provided by this section, when

operating the same on the highways and streets of this State shall comply with the rules of the Director governing such movement, that the Director may adopt. Ohio R.C. 119.01 to 119.13 apply to any rules the Director adopts under this section, or the amendment or rescission of the rules, and any person adversely affected shall have the same right of appeal as provided in those sections.

This section does not require the State, the Municipality, County, township or any railroad or other private corporation to provide sufficient vertical clearance to permit the operation of such vehicle, or to make any changes in or about existing structures now crossing streets, roads and other public thoroughfares in the Municipality.

(h) As used in this section, "recreational vehicle" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4501.01. (ORC 5577.05)

(i) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense or subsequent offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 5577.99)

### **339.04 ROUTE AND LOAD INFORMATION.**

Drivers of vehicles described in this chapter shall be required, upon request by a police officer, to give full and true information as to the route they are following and the name of the consignor and consignee and place of delivery or removal and the location of any consignment being hauled or goods being removed, and upon a designation by such police officer of a route to be followed, shall immediately adopt and pursue such route.

### **339.05 WHEEL PROTECTORS.**

(a) No person shall drive or operate, or cause to be driven or operated, any commercial car, trailer or semitrailer, used for the transportation of goods or property, the gross weight of which, with load, exceeds three tons, upon the streets, bridges and culverts within this Municipality unless such vehicle is equipped with suitable metal protectors or substantial flexible flaps on the rearmost wheels of such vehicle or combination of vehicles to prevent, as far as practicable, the wheels from throwing dirt, water or other materials on the windshields of following vehicles. Such protectors or flaps shall have a ground clearance of not more than one-third of the distance from the center of the rearmost axle to the center of the flaps under any conditions of loading of the vehicle, and they shall be at least as wide as the tires they are protecting. If the vehicle is so designed and constructed that such requirements are accomplished by means of fenders, body construction or other means of enclosure, then no such protectors or flaps are required. Rear wheels not covered at the top by fenders, bodies or other parts of the vehicle shall be covered at the top by protective means extending at least to the center line of the rearmost axle. (ORC 5577.11)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

### **339.06 VEHICLES TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES.**

(a) Any person operating any vehicle transporting explosives upon a street or highway shall at all times comply with the following requirements:

- (1) Such vehicle shall be marked or placarded on each side and on the rear with the word "EXPLOSIVES" in letters not less than eight inches high, or there shall be displayed on the rear of such vehicle a red flag not less than twenty-four inches square marked with the word "DANGER" in white letters six inches high, or shall be marked or placarded in accordance with Section 177.823 of the United States Department of Transportation Regulations.
- (2) Such vehicle shall be equipped with not less than two fire extinguishers, filled and ready for immediate use, and placed at convenient points on such vehicle. (ORC 4513.29)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

### **339.07 TOWING REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) When one vehicle is towing another vehicle, the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby, and such drawbar or other connection shall not exceed fifteen feet from one vehicle to the other, except the connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered.

(b) When one vehicle is towing another and the connection consists only of a chain, rope or cable, there shall be displayed upon such connection a white flag or cloth not less than twelve inches square.

(c) In addition to such drawbar or other connection, each trailer and each semitrailer which is not connected to a commercial tractor by means of a fifth wheel shall be coupled with stay chains or cables to the vehicle by which it is being drawn. The chains or cables shall be of sufficient size and strength to prevent the towed vehicle's parting from the drawing vehicle in case the drawbar or other connection should break or become disengaged. In case of a loaded pole trailer, the connecting pole to the drawing vehicle shall be coupled to the drawing vehicle with stay chains or cables of sufficient size and strength to prevent the towed vehicle's parting from the drawing vehicle.

(d) Every trailer or semitrailer, except pole and cable trailers and pole and cable dollies operated by a public utility, as defined in Ohio R.C. 5727.01, shall be equipped with a coupling device which shall be so designed and constructed that the trailer will follow substantially in the path of the vehicle drawing it, without whipping or swerving from side to side. Vehicles used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials between a local place of storage and supply and the farm, when drawn or towed on a street or highway at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less, and vehicles designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a street or highway for a distance of no more than ten miles and at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less shall have a drawbar or other connection, including the hitch mounted on the towing vehicle, which shall be of sufficient strength to pull all the weight towed thereby. Only one such vehicle used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials as provided in this section may be towed or drawn at one time, except as follows:

- (1) An agricultural tractor may tow or draw more than one such vehicle;
- (2) A pickup truck or straight truck designed by the manufacturer to carry a load of not less than one-half ton and not more than two tons may tow or draw not more than two such vehicles that are being used to transport agricultural produce from the farm to a local place of storage. No vehicle being so towed by such a pickup truck or straight truck shall be considered to be a motor vehicle. (ORC 4513.32)

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

**339.08 LOADS DROPPING OR LEAKING; REMOVAL REQUIRED;  
TRACKING MUD.**

(a) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any street, highway or other public place unless such vehicle is so constructed, loaded or covered as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking or otherwise escaping therefrom, except that sand or other substances may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, or water or other substances may be sprinkled on a roadway in cleaning or maintaining such roadway.

(b) Except for a farm vehicle used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials or a rubbish vehicle in the process of acquiring its load, no vehicle loaded with garbage, swill, cans, bottles, waste paper, ashes, refuse, trash, rubbish, waste, wire, paper, cartons, boxes, glass, solid waste or any other material of an unsanitary nature that is susceptible to blowing or bouncing from a moving vehicle shall be driven or moved on any street, highway or other public place unless the load is covered with a sufficient cover to prevent the load or any part of the load from spilling onto the street, highway or other public place.  
(ORC 4513.31)

(c) No person shall operate any vehicle so as to track or drop mud, stones, gravel or other similar material on any street, highway or other public place.

(d) It shall be the duty of the driver of a vehicle who unlawfully drops or deposits mud, stones, gravel or other similar material or permits the load or any portion thereof to be dropped or deposited upon any street, highway or other public place to immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed. (ORC 4513.31)

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

**339.09 SHIFTING LOAD; LOOSE LOADS.**

(a) In addition to any other lawful requirements of load distribution, no person shall operate any vehicle upon a street or highway unless such vehicle is so laden as to prevent its contents from shifting or otherwise unbalancing the vehicle to such an extent as to interfere with the safe operation of the same.

(b) No motor vehicle or trailer shall be driven unless the tailboard or tailgate, tarpaulins, chains (except ground or contact chains), ropes, stakes, poles, and the like, or any part of the load, are securely fastened to prevent dangling, flapping, swinging or falling from the side, end or top of the load or body. All projecting cargo shall be properly guarded by a red flag or cloth or a red light or lantern as required by Section 337.08.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**339.10 VEHICLES WITH SPIKES, LUGS AND CHAINS.**

(a) No person shall drive over the improved streets of this Municipality a traction engine or tractor with tires or wheels equipped with ice picks, spuds, spikes, chains or other projections of any kind extending beyond the cleats, or no person shall tow or in any way pull another vehicle over the improved streets of this Municipality, which towed or pulled vehicle has tires or wheels equipped with ice picks, spuds, spikes, chains or other projections of any kind. "Traction engine" or "tractor," as used in this section, applies to all self-propelling engines equipped with metal-tired wheels operated or propelled by any form of engine, motor or mechanical power. (ORC 5589.08)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 5589.99)

**339.11 USE OF STUDDED TIRES AND CHAINS.**

(a) For purposes of this section, "studded tire" means any tire designed for use on a vehicle, and equipped with metal studs or studs of wear-resisting material that project beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire. "Motor vehicle," "street or highway," "public safety vehicle" and "school bus" have the same meanings as given those terms in Chapter 301.

- (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) hereof, no person shall operate any motor vehicle, other than a public safety vehicle or bus, that is equipped with studded tires on any street or highway, except during the period extending from November 1 of each year through April 15 of the succeeding year.
- (2) A person may operate a motor vehicle that is equipped with retractable studded tires with the studs retracted at any time of the year, but shall operate the motor vehicle with the studs extended only as provided in subsection (b)(1) hereof.

(c) This section does not apply to the use of tire chains when there is snow or ice on the streets or highways where such chains are being used, or the immediate vicinity thereof.  
(ORC 5589.081)

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 5589.99)

**339.12 DISPLAY OF WARNING DEVICES ON DISABLED VEHICLES.**

(a) Whenever any motor truck, bus, commercial tractor, trailer, semitrailer or pole trailer is disabled upon the traveled portion of any highway, or the shoulder thereof, within the City, or upon any freeway, expressway, thruway and connecting, entering or exiting ramps within the City, at any time when lighted lamps are required on vehicles, the operator of such vehicle shall display the following warning devices upon the highway during the time the vehicle is so disabled on the highway, except as provided in subsection (b) hereof:

- (1) A lighted fusee shall be immediately placed on the roadway at the traffic side of such vehicle, unless red electric lanterns or red reflectors are displayed.
- (2) Within the burning period of the fusee and as promptly as possible, three lighted flares or pot torches, or three red reflectors or three red electric lanterns shall be placed on the roadway as follows:
- A. One at a distance of forty paces or approximately 100 feet in advance of the vehicle;
- B. One at the distance of forty paces or approximately 100 feet to the rear of the vehicle except as provided in this section, each in the center of the lane of traffic occupied by the disabled vehicle;

C. One at the traffic side of the vehicle.

(b) Whenever any vehicle used in transporting flammable liquids in bulk, or in transporting compressed flammable gases, is disabled upon a highway at any time or place mentioned in subsection (a) hereof, the driver of such vehicle shall display upon the roadway the following warning devices:

- (1) One red electric lantern or one red reflector shall be immediately placed on the roadway at the traffic side of the vehicle;
- (2) Two other red electric lanterns or two other red reflectors shall be placed to the front and rear of the vehicle in the same manner prescribed for flares in subsection (a) hereof.

(c) When a vehicle of a type specified in subsection (b) hereof is disabled, the use of flares, fusees or any signal produced by flame as warning signals is prohibited.

(d) Whenever any vehicle of a type referred to in this section is disabled upon any freeway, expressway, thruway and connecting, entering or exiting ramps within the City, at any time when the display of fusees, flares, red reflectors or electric lanterns is not required, the operator of such vehicle shall display two red flags upon the roadway in the lane of traffic occupied by the disabled vehicle, one at a distance of forty paces or approximately 100 feet in advance of the vehicle, and one at a distance of forty paces or approximately 100 feet to the rear of the vehicle, except as provided in this section.

(e) The flares, fusees, lanterns, red reflectors and flags to be displayed, as required in this section, shall conform with the requirements of Ohio R.C. 4513.27.

(f) In the event the vehicle is disabled near a curb, crest of a hill or other obstruction of view, the flare, flag, reflector or lantern in that direction shall be placed as to afford ample warning to other users of the highway, but in no case shall it be placed less than forty paces or approximately 100 feet nor more than 120 paces or approximately 300 feet from the disabled vehicle. (ORC 4513.28)

(g) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**339.13 WEIGHING VEHICLE; SCALES TO BE USED; REMOVAL OF EXCESS LOAD.**

Any police officer having reason to believe that the weight of a vehicle and its load is unlawful may require the driver of such vehicle to stop and submit to a weighing of it by means of a compact, self-contained, portable, sealed scale specially adapted to determining the wheel loads of vehicles on highways; a sealed scale permanently installed in a fixed location, having a load-receiving element specially adapted to determining the wheel loads of highway vehicles; a sealed scale, permanently installed in a fixed location, having a load-receiving element specially adapted to determining the combined load of all wheels on a single axle or on successive axles of a highway vehicle, or a sealed scale adapted to weighing highway vehicles, loaded or unloaded. The driver of such vehicle shall, if necessary, be directed to proceed to the nearest available of such sealed scales to accomplish the weighing, provided such scales are within three miles of the point where such vehicle is stopped. Any vehicle stopped in accordance with this section may be held by the police officer for a reasonable time only to accomplish the weighing as prescribed by

this section. All scales used in determining the lawful weight of a vehicle and its load shall be annually compared by a Municipal, Count or State sealer with the State- standards or standards approved by the State and such scales shall not be sealed if they do not conform to the State standards or standards approved by the State.

At each end of a permanently installed scale, there shall be a straight approach in the same plane as the platform, of sufficient length and width to insure the level positioning of vehicles during weight determinations.

During determination of weight by compact, self-contained, portable, sealed scales, specially adapted to determine the wheel loads of vehicles on highways, they shall always be used on terrain of sufficient length and width to accommodate the entire vehicle being weighed. Such terrain shall be level, or if not level, it shall be of such elevation that the difference in elevation between the wheels on any one axle does not exceed two inches and the difference in elevation between axles being weighed does not exceed one-fourth inch per foot of the distance between such axles.

In all determination of all weights, except gross weight, by compact, self-contained, portable sealed scales, specially adapted to determining the wheel loads of vehicles on highways, all successive axles, twelve feet or less apart, shall be weighed simultaneously by placing one such scale under the outside wheel of each such axle. In determinations of gross weight by the use of compact, self-contained, portable, sealed scales, specially adapted to determining the wheel loads of vehicles on highways, all axles shall be weighed simultaneously by placing one such scale under the outside wheel of each axle.

Whenever such officer upon weighing a vehicle and load determines that the weight is unlawful, he may require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until such portion of the load is removed as is necessary to reduce the weight of such vehicle to the limit permitted under Ohio R.C. 5577.01 to 5577.14 inclusive.  
(ORC 4513.33)

### **339.14 WEIGHT OF VEHICLES.**

(a) The City Engineer is authorized to estimate the weight of traffic which every street and road in the City is capable of bearing with reasonable safety and in cases of streets and roads or portions of streets and roads whose load bearing capacity is insufficient to sustain with reasonable safety such loads as are liable to be hauled over and along the streets or roads of the City, he is directed to post in a prominent position on any such street or road or portion of such street or road a sign stating the safe weight capacity of the street or road and giving such orders and directions as he may think necessary pertaining to the use of any such street or road.

(b) No driver of any motor vehicle, truck or other vehicle, the weight of which exceeds the estimated capacity of any street or road so posted thereon as provided in subsection (a) hereof shall drive such motor vehicle, truck or other vehicle upon any such street or road.

(c) The weight of any motor vehicle, truck or other vehicle includes the weight of any such motor vehicle, truck or other vehicle, and the contents thereof.

(d) No person shall disobey any order or direction made by the City Engineer and posted on any street or road as provided in subsection (a) hereof.  
(Ord. 553. Passed 12-27-79.)

(e) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.





**CHAPTER 341**  
**Commercial Drivers**

<b>341.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>341.04</b>	<b>Prohibitions.</b>
<b>341.02</b>	<b>Exemptions.</b>	<b>341.05</b>	<b>Criminal offenses.</b>
<b>341.03</b>	<b>Prerequisites to operation of a commercial motor vehicle.</b>	<b>341.06</b>	<b>Employment of drivers of commercial vehicles.</b>

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Disqualification - see Ohio R.C. 4506.16  
 Suspension or revocation of license - see Ohio R.C. 4507.16  
 Warning devices when disabled on freeways - see Ohio R.C. 4513.28  
 Arrest notice of driver - see Ohio R.C. 5577.14  
 Load limits - see TRAF. Ch. 339

**341.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Alcohol concentration" means the concentration of alcohol in a person's blood, breath or urine. When expressed as a percentage, it means grams of alcohol per the following:
  - (1) One hundred milliliters of whole blood, blood serum, or blood plasma;
  - (2) Two hundred ten liters of breath;
  - (3) One hundred milliliters of urine.
- (b) "Commercial driver's license" means a license issued in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506 that authorizes an individual to drive a commercial motor vehicle.
- (c) "Commercial motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle designed or used to transport persons or property that meets any of the following qualifications:
  - (1) Any combination of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight or combined gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds;
  - (2) Any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more;
  - (3) Any single vehicle or combination of vehicles that is not a class A or class B vehicle, but is designed to transport sixteen or more passengers including the driver;

- (4) Any school bus with a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of less than 26,001 pounds that is designed to transport fewer than sixteen passengers including the driver;
  - (5) Is transporting hazardous materials for which placarding is required under subpart F of 49 C.F.R. part 172, as amended;
  - (6) Any single vehicle or combination of vehicles that is designed to be operated and to travel on a public street or highway and is considered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to be a commercial motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, a motorized crane, a vehicle whose function is to pump cement, a rig for drilling wells, and a portable crane.
- (d) "Controlled substance" means all of the following:
- (1) Any substance classified as a controlled substance under the "Controlled Substances Act," 80 Stat. 1242 (1970), 21 U.S.C.A. 802(6), as amended;
  - (2) Any substance included in schedules I through V of 21 C.F.R. part 1308, as amended;
  - (3) Any drug of abuse.
- (e) "Disqualification" means any of the following:
- (1) The suspension, revocation, or cancellation of a person's privileges to operate a commercial motor vehicle;
  - (2) Any withdrawal of a person's privileges to operate a commercial motor vehicle as the result of a violation of state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control other than parking, vehicle weight, or vehicle defect violations;
  - (3) A determination by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that a person is not qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle under 49 C.F.R. 391.
- (f) "Drive" means to drive, operate or be in physical control of a motor vehicle.
- (g) "Driver" means any person who drives, operates or is in physical control of a commercial motor vehicle or is required to have a commercial driver's license.
- (h) "Driver's license" means a license issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles that authorizes an individual to drive.
- (i) "Drug of abuse" means any controlled substance, dangerous drug as defined in Ohio R.C. 4729.01 or over-the-counter medication that, when taken in quantities exceeding the recommended dosage, can result in impairment of judgment or reflexes.
- (j) "Employer" means any person, including the Federal Government, any state and a political subdivision of any state, that owns or leases a commercial motor vehicle or assigns a person to drive such a motor vehicle.
- (k) "Endorsement" means an authorization on a person's commercial driver's license that is required to permit the person to operate a specified type of commercial motor vehicle.
- (l) "Farm truck" means a truck controlled and operated by a farmer for use in the transportation to or from a farm, for a distance of not more than one hundred fifty miles, of products of the farm, including livestock and its products, poultry and its products, floricultural and horticultural products, and in the transportation to the farm, from a distance of not more than one hundred fifty miles, of supplies for the farm, including tile, fence, and every other thing or commodity used in agricultural, floricultural, horticultural, livestock and poultry production, and livestock, poultry and other animals and things used for breeding, feeding, or other purposes connected with the operation of the farm, when the truck is operated in accordance with this subsection and is not used in the operations of a motor carrier, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4923.01.

- (m) "Fatality" means the death of a person as the result of a motor vehicle accident occurring not more than three hundred sixty-five days prior to the date of a death.
- (n) "Felony" means any offense under federal or state law that is punishable by death or specifically classified as a felony under the law of this State, regardless of the penalty that may be imposed.
- (o) "Foreign jurisdiction" means any jurisdiction other than a state.
- (p) "Gross vehicle weight rating" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a single or a combination vehicle. The gross vehicle weight rating of a combination vehicle is the gross vehicle weight rating of the power unit plus the gross vehicle weight rating of each towed unit.
- (q) "Hazardous materials" means any material that has been designated as hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and is required to be placarded under subpart F of 49 C.F.R. part 172 or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 C.F.R. part 73, as amended.
- (r) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer, or semitrailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power used on highways, except that such term does not include a vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer or semitrailer operated exclusively on a rail.
- (s) "Out-of-service order" means a declaration by an authorized enforcement officer of a federal, state, local, Canadian or Mexican jurisdiction declaring that a driver, commercial motor vehicle or commercial motor carrier operation is out of service as defined in 49 C.F.R. 390.5.
- (t) "Public safety vehicle" has the same meaning as in divisions (E)(1) and (3) of Ohio R.C. 4511.01.
- (u) "Recreational vehicle" includes every vehicle that is defined as a recreational vehicle in Ohio R.C. 4501.01 and is used exclusively for purposes other than engaging in business for profit.
- (v) "School bus" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.
- (w) "State" means a state of the United States and includes the District of Columbia.
- (x) "Tester" means a person or entity acting pursuant to a valid agreement entered into pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4506.09.
- (y) "United States" means the fifty states and the District of Columbia.
- (z) "Vehicle" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.  
(ORC 4506.01)

### **341.02 EXEMPTIONS.**

Section 341.02 has been deleted from the Codified Ordinances. Former Ohio R.C. 4506.02 from which Section 341.02 was derived was repealed by Am. Sub. H.B. No. 68, effective June 29, 2005. The exemptions are now contained in Section 341.03.

### **341.03 PREREQUISITES TO OPERATION OF A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE.**

- (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the following shall apply:
- (1) No person shall drive a commercial motor vehicle on a highway in this Municipality unless the person holds, and has in the person's possession, any of the following:
    - A. A valid commercial driver's license with proper endorsements for the motor vehicle being driven, issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, or by another jurisdiction recognized by this State;
    - B. A valid examiner's commercial driving permit issued under Ohio R.C. 4506.13;

- C. A valid restricted commercial driver's license and waiver for farm-related service industries issued under Ohio R.C. 4506.24;
- D. A valid commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit issued by the Registrar, provided that the person is accompanied by an authorized state driver's license examiner or tester or a person who has been issued and has in the person's immediate possession a current, valid commercial driver's license and who meets the requirements of Ohio R.C. 4506.06(B).

- (2) No person who has been a resident of this State for thirty days or longer shall drive a commercial motor vehicle under the authority of a commercial driver's license issued by another jurisdiction.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section applies to any qualified person when engaged in the operation of any of the following:

- (1) A farm truck;
- (2) Fire equipment for a fire department, volunteer or nonvolunteer fire company, fire district, or joint fire district;
- (3) A public safety vehicle used to provide transportation or emergency medical service for ill or injured persons;
- (4) A recreational vehicle;
- (5) A commercial motor vehicle within the boundaries of an eligible unit of local government, if the person is employed by the eligible unit of local government and is operating the commercial motor vehicle for the purpose of removing snow or ice from a roadway by plowing, sanding, or salting, but only if either the employee who holds a commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506 and ordinarily operates a commercial motor vehicle for these purposes is unable to operate the vehicle, or the employing eligible unit of local government determines that a snow or ice emergency exists that requires additional assistance;
- (6) A vehicle operated for military purposes by any member or uniformed employee of the armed forces of the United States or their reserve components, including the Ohio national guard. This exception does not apply to United States reserved technicians.
- (7) A commercial motor vehicle that is operated for nonbusiness purposes. "Operated for nonbusiness purposes" means that the commercial motor vehicle is not used in commerce as "commerce" is defined in 49 C.F.R. 383.5, as amended, and is not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 4905, 4921, or 4923.
- (8) A motor vehicle that is designed primarily for the transportation of goods and not persons, while that motor vehicle is being used for the occasional transportation of personal property by individuals not for compensation and not in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise.
- (9) A police SWAT team vehicle.
- (10) A police vehicle used to transport prisoners.

(c) Nothing contained in subsection (b)(5) of this section shall be construed as preempting or superseding any law, rule, or regulation of this State concerning the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4506.03)

**341.04 PROHIBITIONS.**

- (a) No person shall do any of the following:
- (1) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having in the person's possession or otherwise under the person's control more than one valid driver's license issued by this State, any other state or by a foreign jurisdiction;
  - (2) Drive a commercial motor vehicle on a highway in this Municipality in violation of an out-of-service order, while the person's driving privilege is suspended, revoked or canceled, or while the person is subject to disqualification;
  - (3) Drive a motor vehicle on a highway in this Municipality under authority of a commercial driver's license issued by another state or a foreign jurisdiction, after having been a resident of this State for thirty days or longer.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 4506.04)

**341.05 CRIMINAL OFFENSES.**

- (a) No person who holds a commercial driver's license, or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit or who operates a motor vehicle for which a commercial driver's license or permit is required shall do any of the following:
- (1) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having a measureable or detectable amount of alcohol or of a controlled substance in the person's blood, breath or urine;
  - (2) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having an alcohol concentration of four-hundredths of one per cent or more by whole blood or breath;
  - (3) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having an alcohol concentration of forty-eight-thousandths of one per cent or more by blood serum or blood plasma;
  - (4) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having an alcohol concentration of fifty-six-thousandths of one per cent or more by urine;
  - (5) Drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance;
  - (6) Drive a motor vehicle in violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a municipal OVI ordinance as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.181;
  - (7) Use a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony;
  - (8) Refuse to submit to a test under Ohio R.C. 4506.17 or 4511.191;
  - (9) Operate a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license or permit or other commercial driving privileges are revoked, suspended, canceled, or disqualified;
  - (10) Cause a fatality through the negligent operation of a commercial motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, the offenses of aggravated vehicular homicide, vehicular homicide, and vehicular manslaughter;
  - (11) Fail to stop after an accident in violation of Sections 335.12 to 335.14;
  - (12) Drive a commercial motor vehicle in violation of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.61 to 4511.63 or any federal or local law or ordinance pertaining to railroad-highway grade crossings;
  - (13) Use a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony involving the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled substance as defined in Ohio R.C. 3719.01 or the possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispose a controlled substance.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 4506.15)

**341.06 EMPLOYMENT OF DRIVERS OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.**

(a) Each employer shall require every applicant for employment as a driver of a commercial motor vehicle to provide the applicant's employment history for the ten years preceding the date the employment application is submitted to the prospective employer. The following information shall be submitted:

- (1) A list of the names and addresses of the applicant's previous employers for which the applicant was the operator of a commercial motor vehicle;
- (2) The dates the applicant was employed by these employers;
- (3) The reason for leaving each of these employers.

(b) No employer shall knowingly permit or authorize any driver employed by the employer to drive a commercial motor vehicle during any period in which any of the following apply:

- (1) The driver's commercial driver's license is suspended, revoked or canceled by any state or a foreign jurisdiction;
- (2) The driver has lost the privilege to drive, or currently is disqualified from driving, a commercial motor vehicle in any state or foreign jurisdiction;
- (3) The driver, the commercial motor vehicle the driver is driving, or the motor carrier operation is subject to an out-of-service order in any state or foreign jurisdiction;
- (4) The driver has more than one driver's license.

(c) No employer shall knowingly permit or authorize a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in violation of Section 341.05.

(d) No employer shall knowingly permit or authorize a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle if the driver does not hold a valid, current commercial driver's license or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit bearing the proper class or endorsements for the vehicle. No employer shall knowingly permit or authorize a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in violation of the restrictions on the driver's commercial driver's license or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit.

- (e)
  - (1) Whoever violates subsection (a), (b) or (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
  - (2) Whoever violates subsection (c) of this section may be assessed a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars. (ORC 4506.20)

**TITLE SEVEN - Parking**  
 Chap. 351. Parking Generally.  
 Chap. 353. Junk and Abandoned Vehicles.

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**CHAPTER 351**  
**Parking Generally**

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| <p><b>351.01</b> Police may remove unattended vehicle which obstructs traffic.</p> <p><b>351.02</b> Registered owner prima-facie liable for unlawful parking.</p> <p><b>351.03</b> Prohibited standing or parking places.</p> <p><b>351.04</b> Parking near curb; handicapped locations on public and private lots and garages.</p> <p><b>351.05</b> Manner of angle parking.</p> <p><b>351.06</b> Selling, washing or repairing vehicle upon roadway.</p> | <p><b>351.07</b> Unattended vehicle: duty to stop engine, remove key, set brake and turn wheels.</p> <p><b>351.08</b> Opening vehicle door on traffic side.</p> <p><b>351.09</b> Maximum 48 hour street parking.</p> <p><b>351.10</b> Compliance with signs; tow-away zones.</p> <p><b>351.11</b> Truck parking restricted.</p> <p><b>351.12</b> Prohibition against parking on streets or highways.</p> <p><b>351.13</b> Fire lanes on private property.</p> <p><b>351.14</b> Parking prohibited on snow streets; heavy snow defined.</p> <p><b>351.15</b> Private tow-away zones.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Owner nonliability, lease defense - see Ohio R.C. 4511.071  
 Police may remove ignition key from unattended vehicle - see TRAF. 303.03  
 Parking near stopped fire apparatus - see TRAF. 331.27  
 Lights on parked or stopped vehicles - see TRAF. 337.09

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**351.01 POLICE MAY REMOVE UNATTENDED VEHICLE WHICH OBSTRUCTS TRAFFIC.**

Whenever any police officer finds a vehicle unattended upon any street, bridge or causeway, or in any tunnel, where such vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic, such officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle to the nearest garage or other place of safety. (ORC 4511.67)

**351.02 REGISTERED OWNER PRIMA-FACIE LIABLE FOR UNLAWFUL PARKING.**

In any hearing on a charge of illegally parking a motor vehicle, testimony that a vehicle bearing a certain license plate was found unlawfully parked as prohibited by the provisions of this Traffic Code, and further testimony that the record of the Ohio Registrar of Motor Vehicles shows that the license plate was issued to the defendant, shall be prima-facie evidence that the vehicle which was unlawfully parked, was so parked by the defendant. A certified registration copy, showing such fact, from the Registrar shall be proof of such ownership.

**351.03 PROHIBITED STANDING OR PARKING PLACES.**

(a) No person shall stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with the provisions of this Traffic Code, or while obeying the directions of a police officer or a traffic control device, in any of the following places:

- (1) On a sidewalk, curb or street lawn area, except a bicycle;
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway;
- (3) Within an intersection;
- (4) Within ten feet of a fire hydrant;
- (5) On a crosswalk;
- (6) Within twenty feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- (7) Within thirty feet of, and upon the approach to, any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic control device;
- (8) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within thirty feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the end of a safety zone, unless a different length is indicated by a traffic control device;
- (9) Within fifty feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;
- (10) Within twenty feet of a driveway entrance to any fire station and, on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station, within seventy-five feet of the entrance when it is properly posted with signs;
- (11) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such standing or parking would obstruct traffic;
- (12) Alongside any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (13) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a street, or within a street tunnel;
- (14) At any place where signs prohibit stopping, standing or parking, or where the curbing or street is painted yellow, or at any place in excess of the maximum time limited by signs;
- (15) Within one foot of another parked vehicle;
- (16) On the roadway portion of a freeway, expressway or thruway.
- (17) In any public park between midnight and 6:00 a.m., unless posted otherwise;
- (18) On any property owned or leased by the City, except vehicles owned or operated by City employees while on official business, except those areas designated as public parking areas, or visitors engaged in official business;
- (19) In any street or alley when such parking obstructs the traveled way in such manner as to prevent the passage of other vehicles. (A.O.)
- (20) In any portion of streets and highways as set forth in Appendix III: Prohibited and Limited Parking Areas, as set forth in the Appendices to Part III - Traffic Code of the Codified Ordinances of Moraine.  
(Ord. 1442-02. Passed 2-14-02.)



(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.68)

#### **351.04 PARKING NEAR CURB; HANDICAPPED LOCATIONS ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LOTS AND GARAGES.**

(a) Every vehicle stopped or parked upon a roadway where there is an adjacent curb shall be stopped or parked with the curb side wheels of the vehicle parallel with and not more than twelve inches from the curb, unless it is impossible to approach so close to the curb; in such case the stop shall be as close to the curb as possible and only for the time necessary to discharge and receive passengers or to load or unload merchandise.

(b) (1) This subsection does not apply to streets or parts thereof where angle parking is lawfully permitted. However, no angle parking shall be permitted on a state route unless an unoccupied roadway width of not less than twenty-five feet is available for free-moving traffic.

- (2) A. No angled parking space that is located on a state route within a municipal corporation is subject to elimination, irrespective of whether there is or is not at least twenty-five feet of unoccupied roadway width available for free-moving traffic at the location of that angled parking space, unless the municipal corporation approves of the elimination of the angled parking space.
- B. Replacement, repainting or any other repair performed by or on behalf of the municipal corporation of the lines that indicate the angled parking space does not constitute an intent by the municipal corporation to eliminate the angled parking space.

(c) (1) A. Except as provided in subsection (c)(1)B. hereof, no vehicle shall be stopped or parked on a road or highway with the vehicle facing in a direction other than the direction of travel on that side of the road or highway.

B. The operator of a motorcycle may back the motorcycle into an angled parking space so that when the motorcycle is parked it is facing in a direction other than the direction of travel on the side of the road or highway.

(2) The operator of a motorcycle may back the motorcycle into a parking space that is located on the side of, and parallel to, a road or highway. The motorcycle may face any direction when so parked. Not more than two motorcycles at a time shall be parked in a parking space as described in subsection (c)(2) of this section irrespective of whether or not the space is metered.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this Code or any rule, air compressors, tractors, trucks and other equipment, while being used in the construction, reconstruction, installation, repair or removal of facilities near, on, over or under a street, may stop, stand or park where necessary in order to perform such work, provided a flagperson is on duty, or warning signs or lights are displayed as may be prescribed by the Ohio Director of Transportation.

(e) Special parking locations and privileges for persons with disabilities that limit or impair the ability to walk, also known as handicapped parking spaces or disability parking spaces shall be provided and designated by the Municipality and all agencies and instrumentalities thereof

at all offices and facilities, where parking is provided, whether owned, rented or leased, and at all publicly owned parking garages. The locations shall be designated through the posting of an elevated sign, whether permanently affixed or movable, imprinted with the international symbol of access and shall be reasonably close to exits, entrances, elevators and ramps. All elevated signs posted in accordance with this subsection and Ohio R.C. 3781.111 (C) shall be mounted on a fixed or movable post, and the distance from the ground to the bottom edge of the sign shall measure not less than five feet. If a new sign or a replacement sign designating a special parking location is posted on or after October 14, 1999, there also shall be affixed upon the surface of that sign or affixed next to the designating sign a notice that states the fine applicable for the offense of parking a motor vehicle in the special designated parking location if the motor vehicle is not legally entitled to be parked in that location.

- (f) (1) A. No person shall stop, stand or park any motor vehicle at special parking locations provided under subsection (e) hereof, or at special clearly marked parking locations provided in or on privately owned parking lots, parking garages, or other parking areas and designated in accordance with subsection (e) hereof, unless one of the following applies:
    - 1. The motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and is displaying a valid removable windshield placard or special license plates;
    - 2. The motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a handicapped person and is displaying a parking card or special handicapped license plates.
  - B. Any motor vehicle that is parked in a special marked parking location in violation of subsection (f)(1)A. of this section may be towed or otherwise removed from the parking location by the Police Department. A motor vehicle that is so towed or removed shall not be released to its owner until the owner presents proof of ownership of the motor vehicle and pays all towing and storage fees normally imposed by the Municipality for towing and storing motor vehicles. If the motor vehicle is a leased vehicle, it shall not be released to the lessee until the lessee presents proof that that person is the lessee of the motor vehicle and pays all towing and storage fees normally imposed by the Municipality for towing and storing motor vehicles.
  - C. If a person is charged with a violation of subsection (f)(1)A. of this section, it is an affirmative defense to the charge that the person suffered an injury not more than seventy-two hours prior to the time the person was issued the ticket or citation and that, because of the injury, the person meets at least one of the criteria contained in Ohio R.C. 4503.44(A)(1).
- (2) No person shall stop, stand or park any motor vehicle in an area that is commonly known as an access aisle, which area is marked by diagonal stripes and is located immediately adjacent to a special parking location provided under subsection (e) of this section or at a special clearly marked parking location provided in or on a privately owned parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area and designated in accordance with that subsection.

(g) When a motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and is displaying a removable windshield placard or a temporary removable windshield placard or special license plates, or when a motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a handicapped person and is displaying a parking card or special handicapped license plates, the motor vehicle is permitted to park for a period of two hours in excess of the legal parking period permitted by local authorities, except where local ordinances or police rules provide otherwise or where the vehicle is parked in such a manner as to be clearly a traffic hazard.

(h) As used in this section:

- (1) "Handicapped person" means any person who has lost the use of one or both legs, or one or both arms, who is blind, deaf or so severely handicapped as to be unable to move without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or whose mobility is restricted by a permanent cardiovascular, pulmonary or other handicapping condition.
- (2) "Person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4503.44.
- (3) "Special license plates" and "removable windshield placard" mean any license plates or removable windshield placard or temporary removable windshield placard issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.41 or 4503.44, and also mean any substantially similar license plates or removable windshield placard or temporary removable windshield placard issued by a state, district, country or sovereignty.

(i) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (c) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

- (2) A. Whoever violates subsection (f)(1)A.1. or 2. of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in subsection (i)(2)A. and B. of this section. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (i)(2)A. of this section, an offender who violates subsection (f)(1)A.1. or 2. of this section shall be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). An offender who violates subsection (f)(1)A.1. or 2. of this section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) if the offender, prior to sentencing, proves either of the following to the satisfaction of the court:

1. At the time of the violation of subsection (f)(1)A.1. of this section, the offender or the person for whose transport the motor vehicle was being operated had been issued a removable windshield placard that then was valid or special license plates that then were valid but the offender or the person neglected to display the placard or license plates as described in subsection (f)(1)A.1. of this section.
2. At the time of the violation of subsection (f)(1)A.2. of this section, the offender or the person for whose transport the motor vehicle was being operated had been issued a parking card that then was valid or special handicapped license plates that then were valid but the offender or the person neglected to display the card or license plates as described in subsection (f)(1)A.2. of this section.

B. In no case shall an offender who violates subsection (f)(1)A.1. or 2. of this section be sentenced to any term of imprisonment.

An arrest or conviction for a violation of subsection (f)(1)A.1. or 2. of this section does not constitute a criminal record and need not be reported by the person so arrested or convicted in response to any inquiries contained in any application for employment, license, or other right or privilege, or made in connection with the person's appearance as a witness.

(3) Whoever violates subsection (f)(2) of this section shall be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

In no case shall an offender who violates subsection (f)(2) of this section be sentenced to any term of imprisonment. An arrest or conviction for a violation of subsection (f)(2) of this section does not constitute a criminal record and need not be reported by the person so arrested or convicted in response to any inquiries contained in any application for employment, license, or other right or privilege, or made in connection with the person's appearance as a witness. (ORC 4511.69)

### **351.05 MANNER OF ANGLE PARKING.**

(a) Upon streets where angle parking is permitted, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle other than at the angle to the curb or edge of the roadway as is indicated by appropriate signs or markings.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **351.06 SELLING, WASHING OR REPAIRING VEHICLE UPON ROADWAY.**

(a) No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle upon any roadway for the principal purpose of:

- (1) Displaying such vehicle for sale;
- (2) Washing, greasing or repairing such vehicle except repairs necessitated by an emergency.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **351.07 UNATTENDED VEHICLE: DUTY TO STOP ENGINE, REMOVE KEY, SET BRAKE AND TURN WHEELS.**

(a) No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key from the ignition, effectively setting the parking brake, and, when the motor vehicle is standing upon any grade, turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway.

The requirements of this section relating to the stopping of the engine, locking of the ignition and removing the key from the ignition of a motor vehicle do not apply to any of the following:

- (1) A motor vehicle that is parked on residential property;
- (2) A motor vehicle that is locked, regardless of where it is parked;
- (3) An emergency vehicle;
- (4) A public safety vehicle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.661)

#### **351.08 OPENING VEHICLE DOOR ON TRAFFIC SIDE.**

(a) No person shall open the door of a vehicle on the side available to moving traffic unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so, and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, nor shall any person leave a door open on the side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.70(C), (D))

#### **351.09 MAXIMUM 48 HOUR STREET PARKING.**

(a) No person who is the owner, agent, operator or other person in charge of any vehicle shall permit such vehicle to remain parked, standing or abandoned upon any street for a continuous period longer than forty-eight hours. This section shall not be construed as affecting any other parking regulation now in effect or that may hereafter become effective but as an additional parking limitation. The purpose of this section is to prohibit continuous long-time parking and the storage of vehicles on the streets of the City.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

#### **351.10 COMPLIANCE WITH SIGNS; TOW-AWAY ZONES.**

(a) When signs are placed marking "no parking zones", no person shall park a vehicle in any such designated place or in violation of the instructions contained on such signs.

(b) In those areas so designated as tow-away zones by the City Manager, the police may have such vehicles removed at the expense of the driver or owner thereof. Such vehicles shall be towed to the nearest garage or place of safety.

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

#### **351.11 TRUCK PARKING RESTRICTED.**

(a) No person shall stand or park any truck or other vehicle used or equipped to be used for a commercial or industrial purpose upon a street or public way in any area zoned R-2, R-3 or R-4 under the comprehensive Zoning Code, at any time except for the minimum period required in the usual course of business or industry for making delivery of or loading merchandise for delivery.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **351.12 PROHIBITION AGAINST PARKING ON STREETS OR HIGHWAYS.**

(a) Upon any street or highway outside a business or residence district, no person shall stop, park or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon the paved or main traveled part of the street or highway if it is practicable to stop, park or so leave such vehicle off the paved or main traveled part of such street or highway. In every event, a clear and unobstructed portion of the street or highway opposite such standing vehicle shall be left for the free passage of other vehicles, and a clear view of such stopped vehicle shall be available from a distance of 200 feet in each direction upon such street or highway.

This section does not apply to the driver of any vehicle which is disabled while on the paved or improved or main traveled portion of a street or highway in such manner and to such extent that it is impossible to avoid stopping and temporarily leaving the disabled vehicle in such position.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.66)

### **351.13 FIRE LANES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

(a) The marking of fire lanes on private property devoted to public use shall be approved by the City Manager and the Fire Chief of the Fire Department or his designee.

(b) The stopping by a vehicle in a fire lane is prohibited at all times except for vehicles actively engaged in loading and unloading merchandise or people, or for public safety vehicles. Any vehicle stopping in a fire lane as provided in this section may be impounded by a police officer or member of the Fire Prevention Bureau of the City in accordance with Section 307.02. If the identity of the driver cannot be determined, the owner or person in whose name such vehicle is registered shall be deemed prima-facie responsible for such violation.

(c) "Stopping by a vehicle" for purposes of this section means the stopping, obstruction, parking, standing or any arrest of motion of a vehicle irrespective of whether such vehicle is occupied or not and irrespective of the duration of time. (Ord. 461. Passed 8-11-77.)

(d) Traffic signs prohibiting parking in fire lanes shall consist of such wording as established by the City Engineer which signs will be spaced by the Fire Chief or his designee in that area designated as a fire lane. The signs shall be mounted so as to be visible from both directions of travel. The signs shall be purchased and installed by the property owner or his designee not more than thirty days after the date of the receipt of the order to post from the Fire Chief or his designee. If the signs are not posted within the time period provided by order of the Fire Chief or his designee, the City may at its option, purchase and install the signs itself and assess the cost of purchase and installation against the property owner. Such assessment shall be made by giving notice requesting payment within thirty days from the receipt of the bill for purchase and/or installation by the City and if payment is not received within that time then the amount uncollected may be certified to the County Auditor as an assessment against the property.

Any signs prohibiting parking within fire lanes which do not conform to the standard design and legend as established by the City Engineer shall be removed at the expense of the property owner upon posting of the signs heretofore designated.  
(Ord. 1033-93. Passed 8-26-93.)

(e) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**351.14 PARKING PROHIBITED ON SNOW STREETS; HEAVY SNOW DEFINED.**

(a) No owner of any vehicle shall at any time within twenty-four hours following a heavy snow permit it to park or stand upon any of the streets and highways within the City.

(b) A “heavy snow”, within the meaning of this section, means a snowfall having an average depth of six inches or more or a snowfall having an average depth of at least four inches together with a prediction that the total snowfall will exceed six inches in its average depth. This measurement and prediction shall be determined by the Police Department; however, if, in connection with any snowfall, snow drifts are formed which create a serious obstruction to the movement of vehicles, this condition shall be considered the same as “heavy snow”.  
(Ord. 532. Passed 9-27-79.)

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**351.15 PRIVATE TOW-AWAY ZONES.**

(a) If an owner of private property posts on the property, in a conspicuous manner, a prohibition against parking on the property or conditions and regulations under which parking is permitted, no person shall do either of the following:

- (1) Park a vehicle on the property without the owner’s consent;
- (2) Park a vehicle on the property in violation of any condition or regulation posted by the owner. (ORC 4511.681)

(b) Except as provided in Ohio R.C. 4513.60 to 4513.65 and subject to the requirements of this section, the owner of private property or his authorized agent may remove, or cause to be removed, any vehicle parked on the property in violation of a posted parking prohibition, condition or regulation.

(c) The owner of private property may create a private tow-away zone only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The owner posts on his property a sign that is at least eighteen inches by twenty-four inches in size, that is visible from all entrances to the property and that contains at least all of the following information:
  - A. A notice that the property is a private tow-away zone and that vehicles not authorized to park on the property shall be towed away;
  - B. The telephone number of the person from whom a towed-away vehicle can be recovered, and the address of the place to which the vehicle will be taken and from which it may be recovered;

C. A statement that the vehicle may be recovered at any time during the day or night upon the submission of proof of ownership and the payment of a towing charge in an amount not to exceed forty dollars (\$40.00) and a storage charge in an amount not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) per twenty-four hour period.

(2) The place to which the towed vehicle is taken and from which it may be recovered is conveniently located, is well lighted and is on or within a reasonable distance of a regularly scheduled route of one or more modes of public transportation, if any public transportation is available in the Municipality.

(d) If a vehicle is parked on private property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with subsection (c) hereof, without the consent of the owner of the property, the owner and the operator of the vehicle shall be deemed to have consented to the removal and storage of the vehicle, and to the payment of the towing and storage charges specified in subsection (c)(1)C. hereof, and the owner may recover the vehicle only upon submission of proof of ownership and the payment of such charges. However, if the owner or operator of the vehicle arrives after the vehicle has been prepared for removal but prior to its actual removal from the zone, the owner or operator shall be given the opportunity to pay a fee of no more than one-half of the normal towing charge of the person who has prepared the vehicle for removal in order to obtain release of the vehicle. Upon payment of this fee, the vehicle shall be released to the owner or operator and upon release of the vehicle, the owner or operator immediately shall move the vehicle so that it is not parked on the private property established as a private tow-away zone without the consent of the owner.

(e) No owner of private property shall remove, or shall cause the removal and storage of, any vehicle pursuant to this section by a tow truck or tow truck operator in violation of any other municipal ordinance regulating such truck or operator.

(f) If an owner of private property, or his authorized agent, removes or causes the removal of a vehicle from that property pursuant to this section the owner or agent shall notify the police of the removal and of the vehicle's license plate number.

(g) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.



**CHAPTER 353**  
**Junk and Abandoned Vehicles**

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| <p><b>353.01</b> Definitions.</p> <p><b>353.02</b> Inoperable or unlicensed vehicles on private property.</p> <p><b>353.03</b> Notice to comply; time limit.</p> <p><b>353.04</b> Impounding vehicle; waiting period and disposal.</p> <p><b>353.05</b> Exceptions.</p> <p><b>353.06</b> Leaving junk and other vehicles on private or public property without permission or notification.</p> | <p><b>353.07</b> Abandoned or junk vehicles on public or private property.</p> <p><b>353.08</b> Damaged vehicles on public property.</p> <p><b>353.09</b> City Manager to designate storage areas.</p> <p><b>353.10</b> Rules and storage agreements.</p> <p><b>353.11</b> Owner liable for storage costs.</p> <p><b>353.99</b> Penalty.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

Disposition of unclaimed vehicles - see Ohio R.C. 737.32, 4513.62 et seq.  
Impounding of vehicles - see TRAF. Ch. 307

**353.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (a) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power, except road rollers, traction engines, power shovels, power cranes and other equipment used in construction work and not designed for or employed in general highway transportation, hole-digging machinery, well-drilling machinery, ditch-digging machinery, farm machinery, trailers used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials between a local place of storage or supply and the farm when drawn or towed on a public street or highway at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less, threshing machinery, hay-baling machinery and agricultural tractors and machinery used in the production of horticultural, floricultural, agricultural and vegetable products.  
(ORC 4511.01(B); Ord. 605. Passed 3-26-81.)
- (b) "Inoperable motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, as defined in subsection (a) hereof, whether covered or uncovered which meets any three of the following requirements:
- (1) Is three years or older;
  - (2) Is extensively damaged; such damage including but not limited to any of the following: missing wheels, tires, motor or transmission;

- (3) Does not comply with all safety law and equipment provisions for motor vehicles as found in Chapter 337;
- (4) Has a fair market value as provided in Ohio R.C. 4513.63 or less; or
- (5) Is not running and not operable. ("Operable" meaning able to be started and driven under its own power).  
(Ord. 976-92. Passed 7-9-92.)
- (c) "Unlicensed motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle not having attached thereto a valid metal license tag from the proper licensing authorities of the State of Ohio.
- (d) "Premises" means both private property as well as roads, streets and highways, and other areas within the City in use by the public in general.
- (e) "Person" includes any individual, corporation, association, partnership, trustee, lessee, agent or assignee.

### **353.02 INOPERABLE OR UNLICENSED VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

(a) No person shall abandon, discard, store or permit to be stored, or knowingly permit to remain on premises under his control, a motor vehicle or discarded parts of motor vehicles, which vehicle is unlicensed or inoperable within the meaning of this chapter.  
(Ord. 517. Passed 5-24-79.)

(b) If any law enforcement officer or community service officer shall observe a motor vehicle which appears to be unlicensed or inoperable within the meaning of this chapter in the open on private or public property including the streets, roads and highways of the City for three or more days, such officer shall be deemed to have probable cause to enter into and on such public or private property to investigate violations of this chapter.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of creating a public nuisance.  
(Ord. 976-92. Passed 7-9-92.)

### **353.03 NOTICE TO COMPLY; TIME LIMIT.**

(a) Upon the occurrence of an inoperable or unlicensed vehicle, as described in Section 353.02, the Police Department shall give written notice to the person having possession of the premises upon which such unlicensed or inoperable motor vehicle is located, whether the owner, lessee, or agent, to have the motor vehicle or parts thereof, in operable condition and licensed within three days from the date of written notice. Such owner, lessee or agent shall not fail to comply within the three day period. (Ord. 976-92. Passed 7-9-92.)

(b) If such owner, lessee or agent has been found guilty of violating Section 353.02 within the past twelve months, upon any subsequent violation of that section no notice to comply need be given by the Police Department. (Ord. 517. Passed 5-24-79.)

### **353.04 IMPOUNDING VEHICLE; WAITING PERIOD AND DISPOSAL.**

(a) Impoundment. Upon failure to comply with the three-day period specified in Section 353.03 or upon any subsequent violation of Section 353.02 within one twelve-month period as specified in Section 353.03, the Police Department shall cause such abandoned or inoperable vehicle to be towed and moved, and shall store the same in either an area provided by the City for such purpose or an area designated as a place of public storage. The cost of moving and storing such vehicle shall be assessed against the owner.

(b) Thirty-Day Period. In the event the owner cannot be located after due diligence, and within thirty days after storage upon the premises, such vehicle shall be disposed of in accordance with State law relating to abandoned and unlicensed vehicles.  
(Ord. 517. Passed 5-24-79.)

### **353.05 EXCEPTIONS.**

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any person who is duly licensed or authorized by any ordinances or regulations of the City, to have and store unlicensed and inoperable motor vehicles or both on their premises. Specifically excluded herein are vehicles of a commercial wrecker service, automobile repair shop vehicles and motor vehicles of automobile dealers, both new and used.

### **353.06 LEAVING JUNK AND OTHER VEHICLES ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION OR NOTIFICATION.**

No person shall willfully leave any vehicle or an "abandoned junk motor vehicle" as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63 on private property for more than seventy-two consecutive hours without the permission of the person having the right to the possession of the property or on a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, or upon or within the right of way of any road or highway, for forty-eight consecutive hours or longer, without notification to the Police Chief of the reasons for leaving the vehicle in such place.

For purposes of this section, the fact that a vehicle has been so left without permission or notification is prima-facie evidence of abandonment. Nothing contained in this section shall invalidate the provisions of other ordinances regulating or prohibiting the abandonment of motor vehicles on streets, highways, public property or private property within the Municipality.  
(ORC 4513.64)

### **353.07 ABANDONED OR JUNK VEHICLES ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

A police officer may order into storage any vehicle or "abandoned junk motor vehicle" as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63 which is left on private property for more than seventy-two consecutive hours without the permission of the person having the right to the possession of the property, or on a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, or upon or within the right of way of any road or highway, for forty-eight consecutive hours or longer, without notification to the Police Chief of the reasons for leaving such vehicle in such place. Prior to removal of an "abandoned junk motor vehicle" as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63, it shall be photographed by a law enforcement officer in the place where abandoned.

### **353.08 DAMAGED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

A police officer may order to a storage area any motor vehicle found upon public property damaged or wrecked which appears to be inoperable or abandoned.

### **353.09 CITY MANAGER TO DESIGNATE STORAGE AREAS.**

The place of storage for impounded vehicles shall be designated by the City Manager who may designate one or more places for such purpose.

**353.10 RULES AND STORAGE AGREEMENTS.**

The City Manager is further authorized to adopt rules and to enter into agreements with the owners or operators of places of storage as he may designate so as to provide compensation to such owners or operators. Such agreements shall be issued subject to cancellation at the sole discretion of the Manager, and without the necessity of cause.

**353.11 OWNER LIABLE FOR STORAGE COSTS.**

The owner of any vehicle ordered into storage under the provisions of this chapter shall be liable to the City for any costs of storage of such vehicle incurred by the City.

**353.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 303.99 for misdemeanor classifications and penalties.)

TITLE NINE - Pedestrians, Bicycles and Motorcycles  
 Chap. 371. Pedestrians.  
 Chap. 373. Bicycles and Motorcycles.  
 Chap. 375. Snowmobiles, Off-Highway Motorcycles, and  
 All Purpose Vehicles.

**CHAPTER 371**  
**Pedestrians**

- |               |   |               |  |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| <b>371.01</b> | <b>Right of way in crosswalk.</b>   | <b>371.07</b> | <b>Right of way on sidewalk.</b>                     |
| <b>371.02</b> | <b>Right of way of blind person.</b>  | <b>371.08</b> | <b>Yielding to public safety vehicle.</b>            |
| <b>371.03</b> | <b>Crossing roadway outside crosswalk; diagonal crossings at intersections.</b> | <b>371.09</b> | <b>Walking on highway while under the influence.</b> |
| <b>371.04</b> | <b>Moving upon right half of crosswalk.</b>                                     | <b>371.10</b> | <b>On bridges or railroad crossings.</b>             |
| <b>371.05</b> | <b>Walking along highways.</b>  | <b>371.11</b> | <b>Persons operating motorized wheelchairs.</b>      |
| <b>371.06</b> | <b>Use of highway for soliciting; riding on outside of vehicles.</b>            | <b>371.12</b> | <b>Electric personal assistive mobility devices.</b> |

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Pedestrian defined - see TRAF. 301.22  
 Pedestrian prohibited on freeways - see TRAF. 303.06  
 Obedience to traffic control devices - see TRAF.  
 313.01, 313.03  
 Pedestrian control signals - see TRAF. 313.05

**371.01 RIGHT OF WAY IN CROSSWALK.**

(a) When traffic control signals are not in place, not in operation or are not clearly assigning the right of way, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield or if required by Section 313.09, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.

(b) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

(c) Subsection (a) hereof does not apply under the conditions stated in Section 371.03(b).

(d) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.46)

### **371.02 RIGHT OF WAY OF BLIND PERSON.**

(a) As used in this section "blind person" or "blind pedestrian" means a person having not more than 20/200 visual acuity in the better eye with correcting lenses or visual acuity greater than 20/200 but with a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees.

The driver of every vehicle shall yield the right of way to every blind pedestrian guided by a guide dog, or carrying a cane which is predominately white or metallic in color, with or without a red tip.

(b) No person, other than a blind person, while on any public highway, street, alley or other public thoroughfare shall carry a white metallic cane, with or without a red tip.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.47)

### **371.03 CROSSING ROADWAY OUTSIDE CROSSWALK; DIAGONAL CROSSINGS AT INTERSECTIONS.**

(a) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(b) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right of way to all traffic upon the roadway.

(c) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

(d) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians shall cross only in accordance with the official traffic control devices pertaining to such crossing movements.

(e) This section does not relieve the operator of a vehicle from exercising due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.48)

#### **371.04 MOVING UPON RIGHT HALF OF CROSSWALK.**

(a) Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.49)

#### **371.05 WALKING ALONG HIGHWAYS.**

(a) Where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, no pedestrian shall walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

(b) Where a sidewalk is not available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk only on a shoulder, as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway.

(c) Where neither a sidewalk nor a shoulder is available, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall walk as near as practicable to an outside edge of the roadway, and, if on a two-way roadway, shall walk only on the left side of the roadway.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in Section 313.03 and 371.01, any pedestrian upon a roadway shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.50)

#### **371.06 USE OF HIGHWAY FOR SOLICITING; RIDING ON OUTSIDE OF VEHICLES.**

(a) No person while on a roadway outside a safety zone shall solicit a ride from the driver of any vehicle.

- (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) hereof, no person shall stand on a highway for the purpose of soliciting employment, business or contributions from the occupant of any vehicle.
- (2) Council, by ordinance, may authorize the issuance of a permit to a charitable organization to allow a person acting on behalf of the organization to solicit charitable contributions from the occupant of a vehicle by standing on a highway, other than a freeway, as provided in Ohio R.C. 4511.051(A), that is under the jurisdiction of the Municipality. The permit shall be valid for only one period or time, which shall be specified in the permit, in any calendar year. Council also may specify the locations where contributions may be solicited and may impose any other restrictions on or requirements regarding the manner in which the solicitations are to be conducted that Council considers advisable.
- (3) As used herein, "charitable organization" means an organization that has received from the Internal Revenue Service a currently valid ruling or determination letter recognizing the tax-exempt status of the organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the "Internal Revenue Code."

(c) No person shall hang onto, or ride on the outside of any motor vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway, except mechanics or test engineers making repairs or adjustments, or workers performing specialized highway or street maintenance or construction under authority of a public agency.

(d) No operator shall knowingly permit any person to hang onto, or ride on the outside of, any motor vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway, except mechanics or test engineers making repairs or adjustments, or workers performing specialized highway or street maintenance or construction under authority of a public agency.

(e) No driver of a truck, trailer or semitrailer shall knowingly permit any person who has not attained the age of sixteen years to ride in the unenclosed or unroofed cargo storage area of the driver's vehicle if the vehicle is traveling faster than twenty-five miles per hour, unless either of the following applies:

- (1) The cargo storage area of the vehicle is equipped with a properly secured seat to which is attached a seat safety belt that is in compliance with federal standards for an occupant restraining device as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.263(A)(2), the seat and seat safety belt were installed at the time the vehicle was originally assembled and the person riding in the cargo storage area is in the seat and is wearing the seat safety belt;
- (2) An emergency exists that threatens the life of the driver or the person being transported in the cargo storage area of the truck, trailer or semitrailer.

(f) No driver of a truck, trailer or semitrailer shall permit any person, except for those workers performing specialized highway or street maintenance or construction under authority of a public agency to ride in the cargo storage area or on a tailgate of the driver's vehicle while the tailgate is unlatched.



- (g) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (e) or (f) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4511.51)

**371.07 RIGHT OF WAY ON SIDEWALK.**

- (a) The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.441)

**371.08 YIELDING TO PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE.**

- (a) Upon the immediate approach of a public safety vehicle as stated in Section 331.21, every pedestrian shall yield the right of way to the public safety vehicle.
- (b) This section shall not relieve the driver of a public safety vehicle from the duty to exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.452)

**371.09 WALKING ON HIGHWAY WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE.**

- (a) A pedestrian who is under the influence of alcohol, any drug of abuse, or any combination of them, to a degree that renders the pedestrian a hazard shall not walk or be upon a highway.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.481)

**371.10 ON BRIDGES OR RAILROAD CROSSINGS.**

(a) No pedestrian shall enter or remain upon any bridge or approach thereto beyond the bridge signal, gate or barrier after a bridge operation signal indication has been given.

(b) No pedestrian shall pass through, around, over or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while the gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.511)

**371.11 PERSONS OPERATING MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS.**

(a) Every person operating a motorized wheelchair shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian that are contained in this Traffic Code, except those provisions which by their nature can have no application.  
(ORC 4511.491)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.99)

**371.12 ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES.**

- (a)
- (1) Electric personal assistive mobility devices may be operated on the public streets, highways, sidewalks, and paths and portions of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles in accordance with this section.
  - (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, those sections of this Traffic Code that by their nature are applicable to an electric personal assistive mobility device apply to the device and the person operating it whenever it is operated upon any public street, highway, sidewalk, or path or upon any portion of a roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

(b) No operator of an electric personal assistive mobility device shall do any of the following:

- (1) Fail to yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians and human-powered vehicles at all times;
- (2) Fail to give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian;
- (3) Operate the device at night unless the device or its operator is equipped with or wearing both of the following:
  - A. A lamp pointing to the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet;

B. A red reflector facing the rear that is visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.

- (4) Operate the device on any portion of a street or highway that has an established speed limit of fifty-five miles per hour or more;
- (5) Operate the device upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of pedestrians or other specialized use when an appropriate sign giving notice of the specialized use is posted on the path;
- (6) If under eighteen years of age, operate the device unless wearing a protective helmet on the person's head with the chin strap properly fastened;
- (7) If under sixteen years of age, operate the device unless, during the operation, the person is under the direct visual and audible supervision of another person who is eighteen years of age or older and is responsible for the immediate care of the person under sixteen years of age.

(c) No person who is under fourteen years of age shall operate an electric personal assistive mobility device.

(d) No person shall distribute or sell an electric personal assistive mobility device unless the device is accompanied by a written statement that is substantially equivalent to the following: "WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY, USE ONLY WHILE WEARING FULL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - HELMET, WRIST GUARDS, ELBOW PADS, AND KNEE PADS". (ORC 4511.512)

(e) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" means a self-balancing two non-tandem wheeled device that is designed to transport only one person, has an electric propulsion system of an average of seven hundred fifty watts, and when ridden on a paved level surface by an operator who weighs one hundred seventy pounds has a maximum speed of less than twenty miles per hour. (ORC 4501.01)

(f) Whoever violates subsection (b) or (c) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be punished as follows:

- (1) The offender shall be fined ten dollars (\$10.00).
- (2) If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of division (B) or (C) of Ohio R.C. 4511.512 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance, the court, in addition to imposing the fine required under subsection (f)(1) hereof, shall do one of the following:
  - A. Order the impoundment for not less than one day but not more than thirty days of the electric personal assistive mobility device that was involved in the current violation of that section. The court shall order the device to be impounded at a safe indoor location designated by the court and may assess storage fees of not more than five dollars (\$5.00) per day, provided the total storage, processing, and release fees assessed against the offender or the device in connection with the device's impoundment or subsequent release shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).

- B. If the court does not issue an impoundment order pursuant to subsection (f)(2)A. hereof, issue an order prohibiting the offender from operating any electric personal assistive mobility device on the public streets, highways, sidewalks, and paths and portions of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles for not less than one day but not more than thirty days.

(g) Whoever violates subsection (d) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4511.512)

**CHAPTER 373**  
**Bicycles and Motorcycles**

<p><b>373.01</b> Code application to bicycles.</p> <p><b>373.02</b> Riding upon seats; handle bars; helmets and glasses.</p> <p><b>373.03</b> Attaching bicycle or sled to vehicle.</p> <p><b>373.04</b> Riding bicycles and motorcycles abreast.</p> <p><b>373.05</b> Signal device on bicycle.</p> <p><b>373.06</b> Lights and reflector on bicycle; brakes.</p> <p><b>373.07</b> Riding bicycle on right side of roadway; obedience to traffic rules; passing.</p> <p><b>373.08</b> Reckless operation; control, course and speed.</p> <p><b>373.09</b> Parking of bicycle.</p> <p><b>373.10</b> Sidewalk riding prohibited; exceptions.</p> <p><b>373.11</b> License required; exception.</p>	<p><b>373.12</b> Application; term and fee.</p> <p><b>373.13</b> Issuance and renewal; records.</p> <p><b>373.14</b> Attachment of license tag or decal.</p> <p><b>373.15</b> Transfer of ownership; destroying decal.</p> <p><b>373.16</b> Bicycle dealers to report sales and purchases.</p> <p><b>373.17</b> Violation by minors; detention.</p> <p><b>373.18</b> Areas of prohibited motorcycle operation.</p> <p><b>373.19</b> Mini-bikes and trail bikes: operation on public or private property.</p> <p><b>373.20</b> Motorized bicycle operation, equipment and license.</p> <p><b>373.99</b> Penalty.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Motorcycle protective equipment - see OAC Ch. 4501-17  
 Motorized bicycle equipment - see OAC Ch. 4501-23  
 Bicycle defined - see TRAF. 301.04  
 Motorcycle defined - see TRAF. 301.19  
 Bicycles prohibited on freeways - see TRAF. 303.06  
 Hand and arm signals - see TRAF. 331.15  
 Motorcycle operator's license required - see TRAF. 335.01(a)  
 Motorcycle headlight - see TRAF. 337.03  
 Motorcycle brakes - see TRAF. 337.18(b)

**373.01 CODE APPLICATION TO BICYCLES.**

(a) The provisions of this Traffic Code that are applicable to bicycles apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any street or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a bicycle operator who violates any section of this Traffic Code described in subsection (a) of this section that is applicable to bicycles may be issued a ticket, citation or summons by a law enforcement officer for the violation in the same manner as the operator of a motor vehicle would be cited for the same violation. A person who commits any such violation while operating a bicycle shall not have any points assessed against the person's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or probationary license under Ohio R.C. 4510.036.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in the case of a violation of any section of this Traffic Code described in subsection (a) of this section by a bicycle operator or by a motor vehicle operator when the trier of fact finds that the violation by the motor vehicle operator endangered the lives of bicycle riders at the time of the violation, the court, notwithstanding any provision of this Traffic Code to the contrary, may require the bicycle operator or motor vehicle operator to take and successfully complete a bicycling skills course approved by the court in addition to or in lieu of any penalty otherwise prescribed by the Traffic Code for that violation.

(d) Subsections (b) and (c) of this section do not apply to violations of Section 333.01 of this Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.52)

(e) The provisions of this Traffic Code shall apply to bicycles except those which by their nature are not applicable.

### **373.02 RIDING UPON SEATS; HANDLE BARS; HELMETS AND GLASSES.**

(a) For purposes of this section "snowmobile" has the same meaning as given that term in Ohio R.C 4519.01.

(b) No person operating a bicycle shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, or carry any other person upon such bicycle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon, and no person shall ride upon a bicycle other than upon such a firmly attached and regular seat.

(c) No person operating a motorcycle shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat or saddle attached thereto, or carry any other person upon such motorcycle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat or saddle thereon, and no person shall ride upon a motorcycle other than upon such a firmly attached and regular seat or saddle.

(d) No person shall ride upon a motorcycle that is equipped with a saddle other than while sitting astride the saddle, facing forward, with one leg on each side of the motorcycle.

(e) No person shall ride upon a motorcycle that is equipped with a seat other than while sitting upon the seat.

(f) No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars.

(g) No bicycle or motorcycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped. No motorcycle shall be operated on a highway when the handlebars rise higher than the shoulders of the operator when the operator is seated in the operator's seat or saddle.

(h) (1) Except as provided in subsection (h)(2) of this section, no person shall operate or be a passenger on a snowmobile or motorcycle without using safety glasses or other protective eye device. Except as provided in subsection (i)(3) of this section, no person who is under the age of eighteen years, or who holds a motorcycle operator's endorsement or license bearing "novice" designation that is currently in effect as provided in Ohio R.C. 4507.13, shall operate a motorcycle on a highway, or be a passenger on a motorcycle, unless wearing a United States Department of Transportation-approved protective helmet on the person's head, and no other person shall

be a passenger on a motorcycle operated by such a person unless similarly wearing a protective helmet. The helmet, safety glasses or other protective eye device shall conform with rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety. The provisions of this subsection or a violation thereof shall not be used in the trial of any civil action.

(2) Subsection (h)(1) of this section does not apply to a person operating an autocycle or cab-enclosed motorcycle when the occupant compartment top is in place enclosing the occupants.

(i) (1) No person shall operate a motorcycle with a valid temporary permit and temporary instruction permit identification card issued by the Ohio Registrar of Motor Vehicles pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4507.05 unless the person, at the time of such operation, is wearing on the person's head a protective helmet that has been approved by the United States Department of Transportation that conforms with rules adopted by the Director.

(2) No person shall operate a motorcycle with a valid temporary instruction permit and temporary instruction permit identification card issued by the Registrar pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4507.05 in any of the following circumstances:

- A. At any time when lighted lights are required by Section 337.02(a)(1);
- B. While carrying a passenger;
- C. On any limited access highway or heavily congested roadway.

(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the carrying of a child in a seat or trailer that is designed for carrying children and is firmly attached to the bicycle.

(k) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.53)

### **373.03 ATTACHING BICYCLE OR SLED TO VEHICLE.**

(a) No person riding upon any motorcycle, bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle shall attach the same or self to any vehicle upon a roadway.

No operator shall knowingly permit any person riding upon any motorcycle, bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle to attach the same or self to any vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway. This section does not apply to the towing of a disabled vehicle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.54)

### **373.04 RIDING BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES ABREAST.**

(a) Persons riding bicycles or motorcycles upon a roadway shall ride not more than two abreast in a single lane, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or motorcycles.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.55(B))

### **373.05 SIGNAL DEVICE ON BICYCLE.**

(a) A bicycle may be equipped with a device capable of giving an audible signal, except that a bicycle shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.56)

### **373.06 LIGHTS AND REFLECTOR ON BICYCLE; BRAKES.**

(a) Every bicycle when in use at the times specified in Section 337.02, shall be equipped with the following:

- (1) A lamp mounted on the front of either the bicycle or the operator that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front; and three hundred feet to the sides. A generator-powered lamp that emits light only when the bicycle is moving may be used to meet this requirement.
- (2) A red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.
- (3) A lamp emitting either flashing or steady red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector; If the red lamp performs as a reflector in that it is visible as specified in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the red lamp may serve as the reflector and a separate reflector is not required.

(b) Additional lamps and reflectors may be used in addition to those required under subsection (a) of this section, except that red lamps and red reflectors shall not be used on the front of the bicycle and white lamps and white reflectors shall not be used on the rear of the bicycle.

(c) Every bicycle shall be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street or highway.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.56)



**373.07 RIDING BICYCLE ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY; OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC RULES; PASSING.**

(a) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(b) This section does not require a person operating a bicycle to ride at the edge of the roadway when it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so. Conditions that may require riding away from the edge of the roadway include when necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, surface hazards, or if it otherwise is unsafe or impracticable to do so, including if the lane is too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.55(A))

**373.08 RECKLESS OPERATION; CONTROL, COURSE AND SPEED.**

(a) No person shall operate a bicycle:

- (1) Without due regard for the safety and rights of pedestrians and drivers and occupants of all other vehicles, and so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person while in the lawful use of the streets or sidewalks or any other public or private property;
- (2) Without exercising reasonable and ordinary control over such bicycle;
- (3) In a weaving or zigzag course unless such irregular course is necessary for safe operation in compliance with law;
- (4) Without both hands upon the handle grips except when necessary to give the required hand and arm signals, or as provided in Section 373.02(d);
- (5) At a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**373.09 PARKING OF BICYCLE.**

(a) No person shall park a bicycle upon a sidewalk in such a manner so as to unduly interfere with pedestrian traffic or upon a roadway so as to unduly interfere with vehicular traffic.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**373.10 SIDEWALK RIDING PROHIBITED; EXCEPTIONS.**

(a) No person shall ride a bicycle on any sidewalk within the City with a tire diameter greater than twenty inches. (Ord. 1262-98. Passed 10-22-98.)

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**373.11 LICENSE REQUIRED; EXCEPTION.**

(a) No person, who resides within the City, shall ride or propel a bicycle upon any sidewalk, street, public way or alley, unless such bicycle has been licensed by the Chief of Police and the license tag or decal is attached thereto, as provided herein.

(b) This provision shall not apply to any bicycle in transit within the City, providing the owner is a resident of another community.

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**373.12 APPLICATION; TERM AND FEE.**

(a) Application for registration or renewal of registration of a bicycle shall be made to the Chief of Police upon an approved application form furnished by the Chief. The applicant shall state his name, address, make, color, serial number, if any, and/or other identifying features of the bicycle, as well as any other pertinent information as may be required by the Chief.

(b) Upon receipt of completed application for registration of or renewal of registration, the Chief of Police shall issue a license or renewal thereof, valid during the current license period and expiring on May 31, 1969. Renewal shall be applied for within thirty days prior to the expiration date.

(c) All subsequent license periods under this section shall be two years after May 31, 1969, and all licenses issued during any subsequent license period shall be valid only during the then current two-year period.

(d) No fee shall be required for licensing.

**373.13 ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL; RECORDS.**

(a) The Chief of Police, upon receipt of the proper application, is authorized to issue a bicycle license which shall be effective for a period not to exceed two years.

(b) The Chief shall not issue a license for any bicycle when he knows or has reasonable ground to believe that the applicant is not the owner or entitled to the possession of such bicycle or that such bicycle is not in safe operating condition.

(c) Upon the expiration of any bicycle license, the same may be renewed upon proper application.

(d) The Chief shall keep a record of the number of each license, the date issued, the name and address of the person to whom issued, the name and address of the owner's parents or guardian if the owner is a minor, and the name of the manufacturer, color, serial number or other identifying marks of the bicycle for which issued, and other information as the Chief of Police deems pertinent.

**373.14 ATTACHMENT OF LICENSE TAG OR DECAL.**

(a) At the time of registration, the Chief of Police shall furnish to the applicant a durable registration decal bearing the license number assigned the bicycle, the name of the City and the expiration date thereof. He shall also issue a registration card to the applicant reciting that the bicycle has been registered in the name of the owner thereof. Such registration card shall also recite the expiration date of the license and the serial number of such license.

(b) The applicant shall attach such license firmly to the rear mudguard, fender or seat mast of the bicycle for which issued in such position as to be plainly visible from the rear.

(c) The Chief shall furnish each registrant with a copy of the provisions of this chapter and other information as he deems appropriate.

(d) No person shall remove, destroy, mutilate or alter any serial number of any bicycle licensed hereunder, or any license decal or tag issued hereunder.

(e) If the license is lost, defaced or destroyed, the Chief of Police, when satisfied of such fact, shall issue a new license decal or tag upon application of the owner of such bicycle.

(f) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**373.15 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP; DESTROYING DECAL.**

Upon the sale or other transfer of a licensed bicycle, the licensee shall remove and thus destroy the license decal and may, upon proper application, have a new number assigned to another bicycle owned by the applicant.

**373.16 BICYCLE DEALERS TO REPORT SALES AND PURCHASES.**

(a) Every person engaged in the business of buying or selling second-hand bicycles shall make a report to the Chief of Police of every bicycle purchased or sold by such dealer, giving the name and address of the person from whom purchased and to whom sold, a description of such bicycle by name, make, color, serial number thereof and any other identifying marks.

(b) It shall be the duty of every person who sells or transfers ownership of any bicycle licensed hereunder to report within seven days to the Chief of Police such sale or transfer.

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**373.17 VIOLATION BY MINORS; DETENTION.**

(a) Whenever any person under the age of eighteen operates a bicycle in violation of any provision of this chapter, the bicycle and/or violator may be detained at the City police station pending immediate notification of the parent or guardian involved.

(b) Any detained bicycle or operator shall be surrendered to the parent or guardian, but nothing herein shall relieve the offender of any penalty that may be imposed for violation of this chapter.

(c) It shall be the duty of the police officer or the person in charge of records to keep a record of the names and addresses of all violators of this chapter, together with the nature and circumstances of each violation, as well as the disposition of each case.

### **373.18 AREAS OF PROHIBITED MOTORCYCLE OPERATION.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor bicycle, motor scooter or motorcycle within the City upon or in a school yard, park or playground, public walkway or sidewalk which is not so designated for that purpose.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **373.19 MINI-BIKES AND TRAIL BIKES: OPERATION ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

(a) No person shall operate, or permit to be operated, a mini-bike or trail bike on any school, Municipal, Federal, State or County property, including streets or rights of way; nor on any private property without the written consent of the owner of such private property. For the purpose of this section, "private property" means such school, Municipal, Federal, State or County property for which permission can be granted in accordance with the following:

- (1) The written consent of the owner of such private property shall be carried on the person of the operator of such vehicle and produced by the operator on demand of any law enforcement officer.
- (2) The written consent of the owner of such private property for operation of the mini-bike or trail bike shall also contain an assumption of responsibility by such owner for noise created by such permitted use on such private property, whereby the owner and/or owner of such private property shall assume the joint and/or joint and separate responsibility for the operation thereof in any violation of this Traffic Code or the Codified Ordinances of the City.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **373.20 MOTORIZED BICYCLE OPERATION, EQUIPMENT AND LICENSE.**

(a) No person shall operate a motorized bicycle upon any street or highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The person is fourteen or fifteen years of age and holds a valid probationary motorized bicycle license issued after the person has passed the test provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521, or the person is sixteen years of age or older and holds either a valid commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506, or a driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507, or a valid motorized bicycle license issued after the person has passed the test provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521, except that if a person is sixteen years of age, has a valid probationary motorized bicycle license and desires a motorized bicycle license, the person is not required to comply with the testing requirements provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521;

- (2) The motorized bicycle is equipped in accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety and is in proper working order;
- (3) The person, if under eighteen years of age, is wearing a protective helmet on the person's head with the chin strap properly fastened, and the motorized bicycle is equipped with a rear-view mirror;
- (4) The person operates the motorized bicycle when practicable within three feet of the right edge of the roadway obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles; and
- (5) The motorized bicycle displays on the rear of such bicycle the current license plate or validation sticker furnished by the Ohio Director of Public Safety under Ohio R.C. 4503.191.

(b) No person operating a motorized bicycle shall carry another person upon the motorized bicycle.

(c) Each probationary motorized bicycle license or motorized bicycle license shall be laminated with a transparent plastic material.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4511.521)



**CHAPTER 375**  
**Snowmobiles, Off-Highway Motorcycles and All Purpose Vehicles**

<b>375.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>375.05</b>	<b>Licensing requirements of operator.</b>
<b>375.02</b>	<b>Equipment.</b>	<b>375.06</b>	<b>Registration of vehicles.</b>
<b>375.03</b>	<b>Code application; prohibited operation.</b>	<b>375.07</b>	<b>Accident reports.</b>
<b>375.04</b>	<b>Permitted operation.</b>	<b>375.08</b>	<b>Certificate of title.</b>

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Lights, brakes and muffler - see OAC Ch. 4501.29  
 Power of trial court of record to impound registration certificate for certain violations - see Ohio R.C 4519.47  
 Power to regulate; municipal licensing prohibited - see Ohio R.C. 4519.48  
 Street or highway defined - see TRAF. 301.42  
 Required usage of helmets and safety glasses - see TRAF. 373.02(f)

**375.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Snowmobile" means any self-propelled vehicle designed primarily for use on snow or ice, and steered by skis, runners or caterpillar treads. (ORC 4519.01(A))
- (b) "All purpose vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle designed primarily for cross-country travel on land and water, or on more than one type of terrain, and steered by wheels or caterpillar treads, or any combination thereof, including vehicles that operate on a cushion of air, vehicles commonly known as all-terrain vehicles, all season vehicles, mini-bikes and trail bikes. "All-purpose vehicle" does not include a utility vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4501.01 or any vehicle principally used in playing golf, any motor vehicle or aircraft required to be registered under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4503 or Chapter 4561, and any vehicle excepted from definition as a motor vehicle by Section 301.20 of this Traffic Code. (ORC 4519.01(B))
- (c) "Owner" means any person, firm or corporation, other than a lienholder or dealer, having title to a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle, or other right to the possession thereof. (ORC 4519.01(C))

- (d) "Operator" means any person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle or all purpose vehicle.
- (e) "Limited access highway" or "freeway" means a highway especially designed for through traffic and over which abutting property owners have no easement or right of access by reason of the fact that their property abuts upon such highway, and access to which may be allowed only at highway intersections designated by the Ohio Director of Transportation. (ORC 5511.02)
- (f) "Interstate highway" means any part of the interstate system of highways as defined in subsection (e), 90 Stat. 431 (1976), 23 U.S.C.A. 103, and amendments thereof.
- (g) "Off-highway motorcycle" means every motorcycle, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01, that is designed to be operated primarily on lands other than a street or highway. (ORC 4519.01)

### **375.02 EQUIPMENT.**

(a) Equipment of snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles, and all purpose vehicles shall include, but not necessarily be limited to requirements for the following items:

- (1) At least one headlight having a minimum candlepower of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and objects at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead under normal atmospheric conditions during hours of darkness;
- (2) At least one red taillight having a minimum candlepower of sufficient intensity to be plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear under normal atmospheric conditions during hours of darkness;
- (3) Adequate brakes. Every snowmobile, while traveling on packed snow, shall be capable of carrying a driver who weighs 175 pounds or more, and, while carrying such driver, be capable of stopping in not more than forty feet from an initial steady speed of twenty miles per hour, or locking its traction belt.
- (4) A muffler system capable of precluding the emission of excessive smoke or exhaust fumes, and of limiting the engine noise of vehicles. On snowmobiles manufactured after January 1, 1973, such requirement shall include sound dampening equipment such that noise does not exceed eighty-two decibels on the "A" scale at fifty feet as measured according to SAE J192 (September 1970).

(b) No person shall operate any snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle in violation of this section, except that equipment specified in subsections (a)(1) and (2) hereof shall not be required on snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles, or all purpose vehicles operated during the daylight hours.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00). If the offender within the preceding year previously has committed a violation of subsection (b) of this section, whoever violates subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), imprisoned not more than three days, or both. (ORC 4519.20)



**375.03 CODE APPLICATION; PROHIBITED OPERATION.**

(a) The applicable provisions of this Traffic Code shall be applied to the operation of snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles, and all purpose vehicles; except that no snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle shall be operated as follows:

- (1) On any street or highway except for emergency travel only during such time and in such manner as the State or local authority having jurisdiction over such street or highway shall designate, and except as provided in Section 375.04;
- (2) Upon any property owned or leased by the Municipality except in areas designated for such purposes;
- (3) On any private property, or in any nursery or planting area, without the permission of the owner or other person having the right to possession of the property;
- (4) On any land or waters controlled by the State, except at those locations where a sign has been posted permitting such operation;
- (5) On tracks or right of way of any operating railroad;
- (6) While transporting any firearm, bow or other implement for hunting, that is not unloaded and securely encased;
- (7) For the purpose of chasing, pursuing, capturing or killing any animal or wild fowl;
- (8) During the time from sunset to sunrise, unless displaying lighted lights as required by Section 375.02. (ORC 4519.40)
- (9) On any lot or parcel of land that is ½ acre or less in size.  
(Ord. 1913-15. Passed 3-26-15.)

(b) Whoever violates this section shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), imprisoned not less than three nor more than thirty days, or both. (ORC 4519.40)

**375.04 PERMITTED OPERATION.**

Snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles, and all purpose vehicles may be operated as follows:

- (a) To make a crossing of a highway, other than a freeway or limited access highway, whenever the crossing can be made in safety and will not interfere with the movement of vehicular traffic approaching from any direction on the highway, and provided that the operator yields the right of way to any approaching traffic that presents an immediate hazard;
- (b) On highways in the County or Township road systems whenever the local authority having jurisdiction over such highway so permits;
- (c) Off and alongside a street or highway for limited distances from the point of unloading from a conveyance to the point at which the snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle is intended and authorized to be operated.
- (d) On the berm or shoulder of a highway, other than a highway as designated in Ohio R.C. 4519.40(A), when the terrain permits such operation to be undertaken safely and without the necessity of entering any traffic lane;
- (e) On the berm or shoulder of a county or township road, while traveling from one area of operation of the snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle to another such area. (ORC 4519.41)

**375.05 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS OF OPERATOR.**

(a) No person who does not hold a valid, current motor vehicle driver's or commercial driver's license, motorcycle operator's endorsement or probationary license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506 or 4507, or a valid, current driver's license issued by another jurisdiction, shall operate a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle on any street or highway, on any portion of the right of way thereof, or on any public land or waters. This subsection shall not be construed to permit the holder of such a license to operate a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle in violation of Section 375.03.

(b) No person who is less than sixteen years of age shall operate a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle on any land or waters other than private property or waters owned by or leased to such person's parent or guardian, unless accompanied by another person who is eighteen years of age, or older, and who holds a license as provided in subsection (a) hereof, except that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources may permit such operation on State controlled land under its jurisdiction when such person is less than sixteen years of age and is accompanied by a parent or guardian who is a licensed driver eighteen years of age or older.

(c) Whoever violates this section shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), imprisoned not less than three nor more than thirty days, or both. (ORC 4519.44)

**375.06 REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES.**

(a) Except as provided in Ohio R.C 4519.02(B), (C) and (D), no person shall operate any snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle unless the snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle is registered and numbered in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4519.03 and 4519.04.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (a) of this section shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (a) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a) of this section shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00). (ORC 4519.02)

**375.07 ACCIDENT REPORTS.**

(a) The operator of a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle involved in any accident resulting in bodily injury to or death of any person or damage to the property of any person in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall report the accident within forty-eight hours to the Chief of Police, and, within thirty days, shall forward a written report of the accident to the Ohio Registrar of Motor Vehicles on a form prescribed by the Registrar. If the operator is physically incapable of making the reports and there is another participant in the accident not so incapacitated, the participant shall make the reports. In the event that there is no other participant, and the operator is other than the owner, the owner, within the prescribed periods of time, shall make the reports.

Any law enforcement officer or other person authorized by Ohio R.C. 4519.42 and 4519.43, who investigates or receives information of an accident involving a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle shall forward to the Registrar a written report of the accident within forty-eight hours. (ORC 4519.46)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**375.08 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.**

(a) No person shall do any of the following:

- (1) Operate in this Municipality an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle without having a certificate of title for the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle, if such a certificate is required by Ohio R.C. Chapter 4519 to be issued for the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle, or, if a physical certificate of title has not been issued for it, operate an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle knowing that the ownership information relating to the motorcycle or vehicle has not been entered into the automated title processing system by a clerk of a court of common pleas;
- (2) Operate in this Municipality an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle if a certificate of title to the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle has been issued and then has been canceled;
- (3) Fail to surrender any certificate of title upon cancellation of it by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and notice of the cancellation as prescribed in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4519;
- (4) Fail to surrender the certificate of title to a clerk of the court of common pleas as provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4519, in case of the destruction or dismantling of, or change in, the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle described in the certificate of title;
- (5) Violate any provision of Ohio R.C. 4519.51 to 4519.70 or any lawful rules adopted pursuant to those sections;
- (6) Operate in this Municipality an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle knowing that the certificate of title to or ownership of the motorcycle or vehicle as otherwise reflected in the automated title processing system has been canceled.

(b) Whoever violates this section shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or imprisoned not more than ninety days, or both.  
(ORC 4519.66)



## APPENDICES

- I Through Streets.
- II One-Way Streets.
- III Prohibited and Limited Parking.
- IV Restricted Lane Intersections.
- V Traffic Control Signals.
- VI No Passing Zones.
- VII Stop Intersections.
- VIII Speed Zones.
- IX School Zones.
- X Restricted Turn Intersections.
- XI Crosswalks and Walkways.
- XII Prohibited Right Turn on Red Intersections.

### I - THROUGH STREETS

Through streets shall be as specified in Section 313.02(a), (b) and (d) of this Traffic Code.

### II - ONE-WAY STREETS

The following streets and alleys are hereby designated one-way streets and alleys running as specified:

South Dixie Drive, northbound.

Kettering Boulevard, southbound.

Old Springboro Road, northbound from Springboro West to Viking Lane.

Alley lying between and connecting Stroop Road and Steinmetz Avenue, southbound.

Alley connecting Jomar Avenue and Lehigh Place, northbound.

Alley connecting Mainstee Place and Orange Avenue, northbound.

## III - PROHIBITED AND LIMITED PARKING AREAS

The following portions of streets and highways are declared to be prohibited and limited parking zones for the time designated.

No Parking Anytime

Stroop Road north side, from Springboro Road to Kettering Boulevard, and from Kettering Boulevard to South Dixie Drive.

Stroop Road south side, from Springboro Road to South Dixie Drive.

Springboro Road.

South Dixie Drive west side.

Marconi Avenue south side.

Steinmetz Avenue south side.

Beechgrove Road, fifty yards west from Sellars Road.

Kettering Boulevard east side, from Chief Woods Lane to Winwood Avenue.

Kettering Boulevard west side, from Blanchard Avenue south 380 feet.

Blanchard Avenue north side, from Kettering Boulevard east 100 feet, and from Springboro Road east 150 feet.

Blanchard Avenue south side, from Kettering Boulevard to South Dixie Drive, and from Springboro Road east 85 feet.

Chief Woods Lane north side, from Springboro Road to Kettering Boulevard.

Lance Drive both sides, from West Bowman Avenue to Cardington Drive.

West Venetian Drive east side and west side.

East Venetian Drive west side and east side.

Southtown Boulevard south side, from 215 feet east of Elbee Road centerline east 125 feet.

Elbee Road east side.

Arbor Boulevard north side.

Arbor Boulevard west side, Dryden Road to Glazer.

Vance Road east side, in front of Frank Nicholas School from 900 feet south of B. & O. Railroad crossing centerline south 150 feet, except for school buses loading and unloading.

Winwood Avenue, from Kettering Boulevard to Dixie Drive.

Alley between and connecting South Dixie Drive and Kettering Boulevard.

Kreitzer Road north side, westbound from the west side of the Dryden Road intersection to the dead end of Kreitzer Road.

Cadillac Street cul de sac at the north dead end.

Gladstone Street, cul de sac at the north dead end.

Manistee Place south side.

Dryden Road.

Alley connecting Manistee Place and Orange Avenue, except for delivery.

Bowman Drive from Lance Drive to Kettering corporation limit.

Springboro West, south side.

Dryden Road, at entries to Gem City Estates, Section Two, in vicinity of McCabe and Dearwester Drives.

Springboro West between Kreitzer Road and Dryden Road

Cardington Road from east Corporation line to Encrete Lane.

Encrete Lane.

East River Road from Arbor Avenue to the south line of City of Moraine Lot #2922.

## III - PROHIBITED AND LIMITED PARKING AREAS (Cont.)

No Parking 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., except Sunday

Hoyle Place south side.

No Parking 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except Sundays and Holidays

Blanchard Avenue, from 85 feet east of Springboro Road to South Dixie Drive.

Blanchard Avenue north side, from 150 feet east of Springboro Road to Kettering Boulevard.

Chief Woods Lane south side, from Springboro Road to first alley east.

Two-Hour Parking 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except Sundays and Holidays

Marconi Avenue north side.

Steinmetz Avenue north side.

Fulton Avenue, both sides, 4100 and 4200 blocks only.

Kettering Boulevard west side, from Blanchard Avenue to alley north of Blanchard Avenue.

Chief Woods Lane south side, from first alley east of Springboro Road to Kettering Boulevard.

Blanchard Avenue north side, from Kettering Boulevard to Springboro Road.

Fulton Avenue, both sides, 4000 block.

No Parking 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In front of or within 20 feet of any mail box.

No Parking 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Butler Avenue south side.

No Parking 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday

From 4000 Ellery Avenue to 4030 Ellery Avenue.

Two-Hour Parking - No Unattached Trailers - Tow Away Zone

City Lot at Sellars Road and Springboro Road.

Parking Without Time Limitation.

Steinmetz, north side, between Fulton and Kettering Boulevard.

(Ord. 1072-94. Passed 6-23-94; Ord. 1081-94. Passed 7-28-94; Ord. 1112-95. Passed 3-9-95; Ord. 1145-95. Passed 11-9-95; Ord. 1180-96. Passed 11-14-96; Ord. 1186-97. Passed 2-13-97; Ord. 1207-97. Passed 9-11-97; Ord. 1227-98. Passed 5-14-98; Ord. 1237-98. Passed 7-9-98; Ord. 1381-00. Passed 7-13-00; Ord. 1598-05. Passed 10-13-05; Ord. 1818-11. Passed 11-23-11.)



#### IV - RESTRICTED LANE INTERSECTIONS

The following named portion of the streets and highways are designated as restricted lane and turn intersections:

Left, through and right turn lanes for southbound Dryden Road at the intersection of Northlawn Road.

Left turn lane for southbound Dryden Road at the intersection of East River Road, at northbound entrance ramp for Interstate Highway 75.

Left and through lane designation for westbound Hoyle Place and Stroop Road at Kettering Boulevard.

Right and through lane designation for eastbound Stroop Road at Kettering Boulevard.

Left and through lane designation for Stroop Road and Hoyle Place at South Dixie Drive.

Left turn lane designation for northbound Dryden Road at the southbound entrance ramp of Interstate Highway 75.

Right turn off Kettering Boulevard onto Springboro Road.

Left, through and right turn lanes for westbound Springboro West at Dryden Road.

## V - TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS

The following intersections are designated as traffic control signal intersections:

Dryden Road at East River Road, Arbor Boulevard, Springboro West, Northlawn Avenue and Sellars Road.

South Dixie Drive at Marconi Avenue, Stroop Road, Hoyle Place and Big Hill Road.

Kettering Boulevard at Hoyle Place, Stroop Road, Blanchard Avenue and Big Hill Road.

Flashing signal on Viking Lane in front of Moraine Fire Station Number One.

State Route 741 at South Dixie Drive, Sellars Road, Stroop Road, Northlawn Avenue, Dorothy Lane, Sandridge and southbound exit ramp from Interstate Highway 75 (No. 50B).

Stroop Road at Chevrolet Lane.

Dorothy Lane at Encrete Lane.

State Route 741 at Jomar.

Springboro Pike and Cobblegate Drive.

Springboro Pike and Cardington Road.

Springboro Pike at driveway to General Motors North Parking Lot, 1300 lineal feet south of Northlawn Avenue intersection.

(Ord. 1142-95. Passed 10-26-95; Ord. 1264-98. Passed 11-12-98; Ord. 1383-00. Passed 7-27-00.)

Sellars Road at Beechgrove Road/Venetian Way, Vance Road, the entrance to the Moraine Recreational Center complex.

Cloverlawn Avenue at DMAX entrance.

Dorothy Lane and Elbee Road

(Ord. 1485-03. Passed 2-13-03.)

Jomar Avenue and Lauderdale Drive

(Ord. 1501-03. Passed 7-10-03.)

Dorothy Lane and Elbee Road

(Ord. 1485-03. Passed 2-13-03.)

## VI - NO PASSING ZONE

The portions of streets and highways designated or specified in Section 331.07 of this Traffic Code.

## VII - STOP INTERSECTIONS

- (a) The following intersections are hereby declared to be two-way stop intersections:
- Springboro Road (SR 741) at Arbor Boulevard.
  - East River Road at Dryden Road (south end).
  - Stroop Road at Ellery Avenue and Fulton Avenue.
  - Steinmetz Avenue at Ellery Avenue and Fulton Avenue.
  - Marconi Avenue at Ellery Avenue and Fulton Avenue.
  - Sellars Road at Vance Road.
  - Vance Road at Sellars Road.
  - Pinnacle Road at Lyleburn Road.
  - Paris Drive at Vance Road.
  - Parallel Road at Vance Road.
  - Venetian Way at Sellars Road.
  - Clearview Road at Elter Drive.
  - Willowview Road at Clearview Road.
  - Elter Drive at Clearview Road and Sellars Road.
  - Cozy Camp Road at Elter Drive and Willowview Road.
  - Trailon Road at Elter Drive and Willowview Road.
  - Recreation Road at Clearview Road and Beechgrove Road.
  - Beechgrove Road at Willowview Road and Sellars Road.
  - Pensacola Boulevard at Janco Avenue, Lehigh Place, Jomar Avenue and Genoa Avenue.
  - Cloverlawn Avenue at Dryden Road.
  - Southlawn Avenue at Cadillac Street and Dryden Road.
  - Blanchard Avenue at Springboro Road, Kettering Boulevard and S. Dixie Drive.
  - Hoylake Court at Dryden Road.
  - Telehurst Court at Dryden Road.
  - Lakehurst Court at Dryden Road and Portage Road.
  - Portage Road at Telehurst Court and Old Sellars Road.
  - Old Sellars Road at Sellars Road.
  - Viking Lane at Springboro West.
  - Lyleburn Road at Sellars Road Extension.
  - Dorf Drive at Vance Road.
  - Pinnacle Park Drive at Pinnacle Road.
  - Wienburg Avenue at Dorf Drive, Blumen Lane, Wiesen Lane and Schloss Drive.
  - Munich Avenue at Wienburg Avenue and Dorf Drive.
  - Holman Street at Cloverlawn Avenue and Southlawn Avenue.
  - Gladstone Street at Northlawn Avenue, Cloverlawn Avenue and Southlawn Avenue.
  - Cadillac Street at Northlawn Avenue, Cloverlawn Avenue and Southlawn Avenue.
  - Pinnacle Park at Charlotte Mill.
  - Loveland Court at Charlotte Mill.
  - Angus at Parallel.
  - Angus at Paris.
  - Herford at Parallel.
  - Recreation at Sellars.
  - Herford at Sellars.
  - Outdoor at Miami Shores.
  - Outdoor at East Venetian.
  - Outdoor at West Venetian.

## VII - STOP INTERSECTIONS (Cont.)

Shadyview at East Venetian.  
Shadyview at West Venetian.  
Cottage at Miami Shores.  
Cottage at East Venetian.  
Cottage at West Venetian.  
Shorelands at Venetian Way.  
Cozy Camp at Miami Shores.  
Recreation at Vance.  
Lehigh at SR 741.  
Genoa at SR 741.  
Genoa at Lauderdale.  
Lauderdale at Jomar.  
Jomar at Mays.  
Ned at Mays.  
Janco at S. Dixie.  
Winwood at S. Dixie.  
Orange at S. Dixie.  
Manistee at S. Dixie.  
Mays at Orange.  
Winwood at Kettering.  
Fulton at Kettering.  
Steinmetz at Kettering.  
Steinmetz at S. Dixie.  
Edgefield at Kettering.  
Elbee at Southtown.  
Southtown at Kettering.  
Cardington at SR 741  
Glazer at Arbor.  
Glazer at Dryden.  
Arbor at East River.  
Kreitzer at Dryden.  
Kreitzer at Springboro West.  
Lance at Cardington.  
Lance at Industrial Estates.  
Portage at Hoylake.  
Shank at Soldiers Home West Carrollton.  
Soliders Home West Carrollton at Pinnacle.  
Vance at Pinnacle.  
Rand at Pensacola.  
Pensacola at Lauderdale  
(Ord. 1214-98. Passed 1-22-98; Ord. 1590-05. Passed 7-14-05.)

## VII - STOP INTERSECTIONS (Cont.)

- (b) The following intersections are declared to be three-way stop intersections:  
Pinnacle Park Drive at Charlotte Mill Road.  
Swimming Hole Road at Willowview Road.  
Beechgrove Road at Reichert Road.  
Clearview Road at Recreation Road.  
Clearview Road at Willowview Road.  
Miami Shores Drive and Shadyview Road

(Ord. 983-92. Passed 7-23-92; Ord. 1270-98. Passed 12-17-98; Ord. 1590-05. Passed 7-14-05.)

- (c) The following intersections are declared to be four-way stop intersections:  
Northlawn Avenue at Holman Street.  
Cozy Camp Road at Recreation Road.  
Trailon Road at Recreation Road.  
Paris Drive at Hereford Trail.  
Pensacola Boulevard at Winwood Avenue.  
Pensacola Boulevard at Orange Avenue.  
Sellars Road at Vance Road, except right turn traffic westbound may proceed  
without stopping.  
Elter Drive at Clearview Road.  
Lehigh Place at Lauderdale Drive.  
Lehigh Place at Mays Avenue.  
Genoa Street at Pensacola Boulevard.  
Edgefield at Elbee.  
Willowview and Trail-On.  
(Ord. 1169-96(a). Passed 7-11-96.)  
Jomar Avenue and Mays Drive.  
(Ord. 1531-04. Passed 5-27-04.)

## VIII - SPEED ZONES

The following roads and streets are hereby designated speed zones whether higher or lower than established by Ohio R.C. 4511.21:

25 Miles Per Hour

Chief Woods Lane from Kettering Boulevard to Springboro Road.  
Big Hill Road.  
Winwood Avenue from Kettering Boulevard to South Dixie Drive.

35 Miles Per Hour

Springboro Road.  
Kettering Boulevard.  
South Dixie Drive.  
Dryden Road.  
Dorothy Lane.  
East River Road, except 25 miles per hour from Dryden Road to Arbor Drive.  
Sellars Road from Springboro Road to Miami River Bridge.  
Pinnacle Road.  
Vance Road from Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to north corporation line.  
Stroop Road.  
Hoyle Place.  
Sellars Road Extension.

40 Miles Per Hour

State Route 741, from south City Limits north to end of State Route 741  
(in both directions).

55 Miles Per Hour

Interstate Route 75, north of Dryden Road exit, as posted by the Ohio Department  
of Transportation

65 Miles Per Hour

Interstate Route 75, south of Dryden Road exit, as posted by the Ohio Department  
of Transportation.  
(Ord. 1177-96. Passed 9-12-96; Ord. 1197-97. Passed 5-22-97.)

### IX - SCHOOL ZONES

The following areas are hereby designated as school zones:

Vance Road adjacent to the Frank Nicholas School.

South Dixie Drive adjacent to the C.F. Holliday School.

Holman Street from Northlawn Avenue to the school boundary of the Moraine Meadows School.

Kettering Boulevard adjacent to the Montgomery County School facility located at 3500 Kettering Boulevard.

(Ord. 1392-00. Passed 10-12-00; Ord. 1529-04. Passed 4-22-04; Ord. 1601-05. Passed 10-27-05.)

### X - RESTRICTED TURN INTERSECTIONS

The following intersections are hereby declared to be restricted turn intersections:

Any intersection with a one-way street for a turn in a direction different than the designated flow of traffic.

Springboro Pike (SR 741) southbound at Lehigh Place.

Lehigh Place eastbound at Springboro Pike (SR 741).

(Ord. 1064-94. Passed 3-24-94.)

No left turn to restaurant at southbound Kettering Boulevard far left turn lane at Springboro Pike.

(Ord. 1113-95. Passed 3-9-95.)

No right turn on red from westbound Main Street to northbound Vance Road, on school days and from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Ord. 1425-01. Passed 10-8-01.)

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## XI - CROSSWALKS AND WALKWAYS

The following portions of the streets are hereby declared to be crosswalks and pedestrian walkways different from the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code:

A pedestrian walkway on the north side of Kreitzer Road.

## XII - PROHIBITED RIGHT TURN ON RED INTERSECTIONS

Pursuant to Section 313.03(c)(4), a right turn against a steady red signal is prohibited at the following intersections:

Stroop Road at Springboro Road for westbound traffic, curb lane only.

South Dixie Drive at Stroop Road for northbound traffic.

Dorothy Lane at Springboro Road (SR 741), curb lane only.

State Route 741 southbound at South Dixie Drive.

State Route 741 northbound at South Dixie Drive.

(Ord. 1071-94. Passed 5-12-94; Ord. 1772-10. Passed 8-26-10.)

State Route 741 (Springboro Pike) southbound at Main Street.

(Ord. 1807-11. Passed 8-11-11.)



**CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF MORAINE**  
**PART FIVE - GENERAL OFFENSES CODE**

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- Chap. 501. General Provisions and Penalty.**
- Chap. 505. Animals and Fowl.**
- Chap. 507. Dangerous Animals.**
- Chap. 508. Dangerous, Nuisance and Vicious Dogs.**
- Chap. 509. Disorderly Conduct and Peace Disturbance.**
- Chap. 513. Drug Abuse Control.**
- Chap. 517. Gambling.**
- Chap. 521. Health, Safety and Sanitation.**
- Chap. 525. Law Enforcement and Public Office.**
- Chap. 529. Liquor Control.**
- Chap. 530. Parks.**
- Chap. 533. Obscenity and Sex Offenses.**
- Chap. 537. Offenses Against Persons.**
- Chap. 541. Property Offenses.**
- Chap. 542. False Police Alarms.**
- Chap. 545. Theft and Fraud.**
- Chap. 549. Weapons and Explosives.**
- Chap. 553. Railroads.**
- Chap. 557. Weeds, Trees and Shrubbery. (Repealed)**



CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF MORAINÉ  
PART FIVE - GENERAL OFFENSES CODE

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**CHAPTER 501**  
**General Provisions and Penalty**

<p><b>501.01</b> Definitions.</p> <p><b>501.02</b> Classification of offenses.</p> <p><b>501.03</b> Common law offenses abrogated.</p> <p><b>501.04</b> Rules of construction.</p> <p><b>501.05</b> Criminal law jurisdiction.</p> <p><b>501.06</b> Limitation of criminal prosecution.</p> <p><b>501.07</b> Requirements for criminal liability.</p>	<p><b>501.08</b> Culpable mental states.</p> <p><b>501.09</b> Attempt.</p> <p><b>501.10</b> Complicity.</p> <p><b>501.11</b> Organizational criminal liability.</p> <p><b>501.12</b> Personal accountability for organizational conduct.</p> <p><b>501.13</b> Conspiracy.</p> <p><b>501.99</b> Penalties for misdemeanors.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
Limitation of prosecution for income tax violations - see Ohio R.C. 718.06  
Modification of sentence - see Ohio R.C. 2929.10(C), (D)  
Penalty considerations - see Ohio R.C. 2929.22  
Citation issuance for minor misdemeanors - see Ohio R.C. 2935.26 et seq.

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**501.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in the Codified Ordinances:

- (a) "Force" means any violence, compulsion or constraint physically exerted by any means upon or against a person or thing.
- (b) "Deadly force" means any force that carries a substantial risk that it will proximately result in the death of any person.
- (c) "Physical harm to persons" means any injury, illness or other physiological impairment, regardless of its gravity or duration.
- (d) "Physical harm to property" means any tangible or intangible damage to property that, in any degree, results in loss to its value or interferes with its use or enjoyment. "Physical harm to property" does not include wear and tear occasioned by normal use.
- (e) "Serious physical harm to persons" means any of the following:
  - (1) Any mental illness or condition of such gravity as would normally require hospitalization or prolonged psychiatric treatment;
  - (2) Any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of death;
  - (3) Any physical harm that involves some permanent incapacity, whether partial or total, or that involves some temporary, substantial incapacity;

- (4) Any physical harm that involves some permanent disfigurement, or that involves some temporary, serious disfigurement;
- (5) Any physical harm that involves acute pain of such duration as to result in substantial suffering, or that involves any degree of prolonged or intractable pain.
- (f) "Serious physical harm to property" means any physical harm to property that does either of the following:
  - (1) Results in substantial loss to the value of the property, or requires a substantial amount of time, effort or money to repair or replace;
  - (2) Temporarily prevents the use or enjoyment of the property, or substantially interferes with its use and enjoyment for an extended period of time.
- (g) "Risk" means a significant possibility, as contrasted with a remote possibility, that a certain result may occur or that certain circumstances may exist.
- (h) "Substantial risk" means a strong possibility, as contrasted with a remote or significant possibility, that a certain result may occur or that certain circumstances may exist.
- (i) "Offense of violence" means any of the following:
  - (1) A violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, 2903.04, 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13, 2903.15, 2903.21, 2903.211, 2903.22, 2905.01, 2905.02, 2905.11, 2905.32, 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.05, 2909.02, 2909.03, 2909.24, 2911.01, 2911.02, 2911.11, 2917.01, 2917.02, 2917.03, 2917.31, 2919.25, 2921.03, 2921.04, 2921.34, 2923.161, 2903.34(A)(1), 2911.12(A)(1) to (3) or 2919.22(B)(1) to (4), or felonious sexual penetration in violation of former Ohio R.C. 2907.12;
  - (2) A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States, substantially equivalent to any section listed in subsection (i)(1) hereof;
  - (3) An offense, other than a traffic offense, under an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States, committed, purposely or knowingly, and involving physical harm to persons or a risk of serious physical harm to persons;
  - (4) A conspiracy or attempt to commit, or complicity in committing any offense under subsection (i)(1), (2) or (3) hereof.
- (j) (1) "Property" means any property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, and any interest or license in that property. "Property" includes, but is not limited to, cable television service, other telecommunications service, telecommunications devices, information service, computers, data, computer software, financial instruments associated with computers, other documents associated with computers, or copies of the documents, whether in machine or human readable form, trade secrets, trademarks, copyrights, patents, and property protected by a trademark, copyright, or patent. "Financial instruments associated with computers" include, but are not limited to, checks, drafts, warrants, money orders, notes of indebtedness, certificates of deposit, letters of credit, bills of credit or debit cards, financial transaction authorization mechanisms, marketable securities, or any computer system representations of any of them.
  - (2) As used in this section, "trade secret" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 1333.61, and "telecommunications service" and "information service" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01.

- (3) As used in this section, “cable television service”, “computer”, “computer software”, “computer system”, “computer network”, “data”, and “telecommunications device” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01.
- (k) "Law enforcement officer" means any of the following:
- (1) A sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer of a township or joint police district, marshal, deputy marshal, municipal police officer, member of a police force employed by a metropolitan housing authority under Ohio R.C. 3735.31(D) or State highway patrol trooper;
  - (2) An officer, agent or employee of the State or any of its agencies, instrumentalities or political subdivisions, upon whom, by statute, Charter or ordinance, a duty to conserve the peace or to enforce all or certain laws is imposed and the authority to arrest violators is conferred, within the limits of that statutory duty and authority;
  - (3) A mayor or manager in the mayor's or manager's capacity as chief conservator of the peace within the mayor's or manager's municipal corporation;
  - (4) A member of an auxiliary police force organized by county, township or municipal law enforcement authorities, within the scope of the member's appointment or commission;
  - (5) A person lawfully called pursuant to Ohio R.C. 311.07 to aid a sheriff in keeping the peace, for the purposes and during the time when the person is called;
  - (6) A person appointed by a mayor pursuant to Ohio R.C. 737.01 as a special patrolling officer during riot or emergency, for the purposes and during the time when the person is appointed;
  - (7) A member of the organized militia of this State or the armed forces of the United States, lawfully called to duty to aid civil authorities in keeping the peace or protect against domestic violence;
  - (8) A prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, secret service officer or municipal prosecutor;
  - (9) A veterans' home police officer appointed under Ohio R.C. 5907.02;
  - (10) A member of a police force employed by a regional transit authority under Ohio R.C. 306.35(Y);
  - (11) A special police officer employed by a port authority under Ohio R.C. 4582.04 or 4582.28;
  - (12) The Senate Sergeant of Arms and or Assistant Sergeant at Arms;
  - (13) A special police officer employed by a municipal corporation at a municipal airport, or other municipal air navigation facility, that has scheduled operations, as defined in Section 119.3 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 14 C.F.R. 119.3, as amended, and that is required to be under a security program and is governed by aviation security rules of the transportation security administration of the United States Department of Transportation as provided in Parts 1542 and 1544 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended.
- (l) "Privilege" means an immunity, license or right conferred by law, or bestowed by express or implied grant, or arising out of status, position, office or relationship, or growing out of necessity.

- (m) "Contraband" means any property that is illegal for a person to acquire or possess under a statute, ordinance, or rule, or that a trier of fact lawfully determines to be illegal to possess by reason of the property's involvement in an offense. "Contraband" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
- (1) Any controlled substance, as defined in Ohio R.C. 3719.01, or any device, or paraphernalia;
  - (2) Any unlawful gambling device, or paraphernalia;
  - (3) Any dangerous ordnance or obscene material.
- (n) A person is "not guilty by reason of insanity" relative to a charge of an offense only if the person proves, in the manner specified in Ohio R.C. 2901.05, that at the time of the commission of the offense, the person did not know, as a result of a severe mental disease or defect, the wrongfulness of the person's acts.
- (o) (1) A. Subject to subsection (o)(2) hereof, as used in any section contained in Part Five - General Offenses Code that sets forth a criminal offense, "person" includes all of the following:
1. An individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, and association;
  2. An unborn human who is viable.
- B. As used in any section contained in Part Five - General Offenses Code that does not set forth a criminal offense, "person" includes an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership and association.
- C. As used in subsection (o)(1)A. hereof:
1. "Unborn human" means an individual organism of the species *Homo sapiens* from fertilization until live birth.
  2. "Viable" means the stage of development of a human fetus at which there is a realistic possibility of maintaining and nourishing of a life outside the womb with or without temporary artificial life-sustaining support.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (o)(1)A. hereof, in no case shall the portion of the definition of the term "person" that is set forth in subsection (o)(1)A.2. hereof be applied or construed in any section contained in Part Five - General Offenses Code that sets forth a criminal offense in any of the following manners:
- A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (o)(2)A. hereof, in a manner so that the offense prohibits or is construed as prohibiting any pregnant woman or her physician from performing an abortion with the consent of the pregnant woman, with the consent of the pregnant woman implied by law in a medical emergency, or with the approval of one otherwise authorized by law to consent to medical treatment on behalf of the pregnant woman. An abortion that violates the conditions described in the immediately preceding sentence may be punished as a violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, 2903.04, 2903.05, 2903.06, 2903.08, 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13, 2903.14, 2903.21, or 2903.22, as applicable. An abortion that does not violate the conditions described in the second immediately preceding sentence, but that does violate Ohio R.C. 2919.12, division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2919.13, or Ohio R.C. 2919.151, 2919.17 or 2919.18, may be punished as a violation of Ohio R.C. 2919.12, division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2919.13, or Ohio R.C. 2919.151, 2919.17 or 2919.18, as applicable. Consent is sufficient under this subsection if it is of the type otherwise adequate to permit medical treatment to the pregnant woman, even if it does not comply with Ohio R.C. 2919.12.

- B. In a manner so that the offense is applied or is construed as applying to a woman based on an act or omission of the woman that occurs while she is or was pregnant and that results in any of the following:
1. Her delivery of a stillborn baby;
  2. Her causing, in any other manner, the death in utero of a viable, unborn human that she is carrying;
  3. Her causing the death of her child who is born alive but who dies from one or more injuries that are sustained while the child is a viable, unborn human;
  4. Her causing her child who is born alive to sustain one or more injuries while the child is a viable, unborn human;
  5. Her causing, threatening to cause, or attempting to cause, in any other manner, an injury, illness or other physiological impairment, regardless of its duration or gravity, or a mental illness or condition, regardless of its duration or gravity, to a viable, unborn human that she is carrying.
- (p) “School safety zone” consists of a school, school building, school premises, school activity, and school bus.
- (q) “School”, “school building” and “school premises” have the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2925.01.
- (r) “School activity” means any activity held under the auspices of a board of education of a city, local, exempted village, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district; a governing authority of a community school established under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3314; a governing body of an educational service center; or the governing body of a nonpublic school for which the State Board of Education prescribes minimum standards under Ohio R.C. 3301.07.
- (s) “School bus” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.  
(ORC 2901.01)

#### **501.02 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES.**

As used in the Codified Ordinances:

- (a) Offenses include misdemeanors of the first, second, third and fourth degree, minor misdemeanors and offenses not specifically classified.
- (b) Regardless of the penalty that may be imposed, any offense specifically classified as a misdemeanor is a misdemeanor.
- (c) Any offense not specifically classified is a misdemeanor if imprisonment for not more than one year may be imposed as a penalty.
- (d) Any offense not specifically classified is a minor misdemeanor if the only penalty that may be imposed is one of the following:
  - (1) For an offense committed prior to January 1, 2004, a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00);
  - (2) For an offense committed on or after January 1, 2004, a fine not exceeding one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00), community service under division (D) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, or a financial sanction other than a fine under Ohio R.C. 2929.28. (ORC 2901.02)

#### **501.03 COMMON LAW OFFENSES ABROGATED.**

- (a) No conduct constitutes a criminal offense against the Municipality unless it is defined as an offense in the Codified Ordinances or any other Municipal ordinance.
- (b) An offense is defined when one or more sections of the Codified Ordinances state a positive prohibition or enjoin a specific duty, and provide a penalty for violation of such prohibition or failure to meet such duty.

(c) This section does not affect the power of a court to punish for contempt or to employ any sanction authorized by law to enforce an order, civil judgment or decree. (ORC 2901.03)

#### **501.04 RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) hereof, sections of the Codified Ordinances defining offenses or penalties shall be strictly construed against the Municipality and liberally construed in favor of the accused.

(b) Rules of criminal procedure and sections of the Ohio Revised Code providing for criminal procedure shall be construed so as to effect the fair, impartial, speedy and sure administration of justice.

(c) Any provision of a section of the Codified Ordinances that refers to a previous conviction of or plea of guilty to a violation of a section of the Codified Ordinances or Ohio Revised Code or of a division of a section of the Codified Ordinances or Ohio Revised Code shall be construed to also refer to a previous conviction of or plea of guilty to a substantially equivalent offense under an existing or former law of this State, another state, or the United States or under an existing or former municipal ordinance.

(d) Any provision of the Codified Ordinances that refers to a section, or to a division of a section, of the Codified Ordinances that defines or specifies a criminal offense shall be construed to also refer to an existing or former law of this State, another state, or the United States, to an existing or former municipal ordinance, or to an existing or former division of any such existing or former law or ordinance that defines or specifies, or that defined or specified, a substantially equivalent offense. (ORC 2901.04)

#### **501.05 CRIMINAL LAW JURISDICTION.**

(a) A person is subject to misdemeanor prosecution and punishment in this Municipality if any of the following occur:

- (1) The person commits an offense under the laws of this Municipality, any element of which takes place in this Municipality.
- (2) While in this Municipality, the person attempts to commit, or is guilty of complicity in the commission of, an offense in another jurisdiction, which offense is an offense under both the laws of this Municipality or this State and the other jurisdiction, or, while in this Municipality, the person conspires to commit an offense in another jurisdiction, which offense is an offense under both the laws of this Municipality or this State and the other jurisdiction, and a substantial overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy is undertaken in this Municipality by the person or another person involved in the conspiracy, subsequent to the person's entrance into the conspiracy. In any case in which a person attempts to commit, is guilty of complicity in the commission of, or conspires to commit an offense in another jurisdiction as described in this subsection, the person is subject to criminal prosecution and punishment in this Municipality for the attempt, complicity, or conspiracy, and for any resulting offense that is committed or completed in the other jurisdiction.
- (3) While out of this Municipality, the person conspires or attempts to commit, or is guilty of complicity in the commission of, an offense in this Municipality.
- (4) While out of this Municipality, the person omits to perform a legal duty imposed by the laws of this Municipality, which omission affects a legitimate interest of the Municipality in protecting, governing or regulating any person, property, thing, transaction or activity in this Municipality.



- (5) While out of this Municipality, the person unlawfully takes or retains property and subsequently brings any of the unlawfully taken or retained property into this Municipality.
- (6) While out of this Municipality, the person unlawfully takes or entices another and subsequently brings the other person into this Municipality.
- (7) The person, by means of a computer, computer system, computer network, telecommunication, telecommunications device, telecommunications service, or information service, causes or knowingly permits any writing, data, image, or other telecommunication to be disseminated or transmitted into this Municipality in violation of the law of this Municipality.

(b) This Municipality includes the land and water within its boundaries and the air space above such land and water, and real property outside the corporate limits, with respect to which this Municipality has either exclusive or concurrent legislative jurisdiction. Where the boundary between this Municipality and another jurisdiction is disputed, the disputed territory is conclusively presumed to be within this Municipality for purposes of this section.

(c) When an offense is committed under the laws of this Municipality, and it appears beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense or any element of the offense took place either in this Municipality or in another jurisdiction or jurisdictions, but it cannot reasonably be determined in which it took place, the offense or element is conclusively presumed to have taken place in this Municipality for purposes of this section.

(d) When a person is subject to criminal prosecution and punishment in this Municipality for an offense committed or completed outside of this Municipality, the person is subject to all specifications for that offense that would be applicable if the offense had been committed within this Municipality.

(e) Any act, conduct, or element that is a basis of a person being subject under this section to criminal prosecution and punishment in this Municipality need not be committed personally by the person as long as it is committed by another person who is in complicity or conspiracy with the person.

(f) This section shall be liberally construed, consistent with constitutional limitations, to allow this Municipality the broadest possible jurisdiction over offenses and persons committing offenses in, or affecting, this Municipality.

(g) For purposes of subsection (a)(2) of this section, an overt act is substantial when it is of a character that manifests a purpose on the part of the actor that the object of the conspiracy should be completed.

(h) As used in this section, “computer”, “computer system”, “computer network”, “information service”, “telecommunication”, “telecommunications device”, “telecommunications service”, “data”, and “writing” have the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01. (ORC 2901.11)

#### **501.06 LIMITATION OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a prosecution shall be barred unless it is commenced within the following periods after an offense is committed:

- (1) For misdemeanor other than a minor misdemeanor, two years;
- (2) For a minor misdemeanor, six months.

(b) If the period of limitation provided in subsection (a) hereof has expired, prosecution shall be commenced for an offense of which an element is fraud or breach of a fiduciary duty, within one year after discovery of the offense either by an aggrieved person, or by his legal representative who is not himself a party to the offense.

- (c) (1) If the period of limitation provided in this section has expired, prosecution shall be commenced for the following offenses during the following specified periods of time:
- A. For an offense involving misconduct in office by a public servant at any time while the accused remains a public servant, or within two years thereafter;
  - B. For an offense by a person who is not a public servant but whose offense is directly related to the misconduct in office of a public servant, at any time while that public servant remains a public servant, or within two years thereafter.
- (2) As used in this subsection:
- A. An “offense is directly related to the misconduct in office of a public servant” includes, but is not limited to, a violation of Ohio R.C. 101.71, 101.91, 121.61 or 2921.13, division (F) or (H) of Ohio R.C. 102.03, division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2921.02, division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 2921.43, or division (F) or (G) of Ohio R.C. 3517.13, that is directly related to an offense involving misconduct in office of a public servant.
  - B. “Public servant” has the same meaning as in Section 525.01.

(d) An offense is committed when every element of the offense occurs. In the case of an offense of which an element is a continuing course of conduct, the period of limitation does not begin to run until such course of conduct or the accused's accountability for it terminates, whichever occurs first.

(e) A prosecution is commenced on the date an indictment is returned or an information filed, or on the date a lawful arrest without a warrant is made, or on the date a warrant, summons, citation or other process is issued, whichever occurs first. A prosecution is not commenced by the return of an indictment or the filing of an information unless reasonable diligence is exercised to issue and execute process on the same. A prosecution is not commenced upon issuance of a warrant, summons, citation or other process, unless reasonable diligence is exercised to execute the same.

(f) The period of limitation shall not run during any time when the corpus delicti remains undiscovered.

(g) The period of limitation shall not run during any time when the accused purposely avoids prosecution. Proof that the accused absented himself from this Municipality or concealed his identity or whereabouts is prima-facie evidence of his purpose to avoid prosecution.

(h) The period of limitation shall not run during any time a prosecution against the accused based on the same conduct is pending in this State, even though the indictment, information or process that commenced the prosecution is quashed or the proceedings on the indictment, information or process are set aside or reversed on appeal.

(i) The period of limitation for a violation of any provision of this General Offenses Code that involves a physical or mental wound, injury, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child under eighteen years of age or of a child with a developmental disability or physical impairment under twenty-one years of age shall not begin to run until either of the following occurs:

- (1) The victim of the offense reaches the age of majority.

- (2) A public children services agency, or a municipal or county peace officer that is not the parent or guardian of the child, in the county in which the child resides or in which the abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred has been notified that abuse or neglect is known, suspected, or believed to have occurred. (ORC 2901.13)

(j) This section shall not apply to prosecutions commenced within the period of limitations set forth in Ohio R.C. 718.12(B) for violations of the Municipal income tax ordinance.

#### **501.07 REQUIREMENTS FOR CRIMINAL LIABILITY.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) hereof, a person is not guilty of an offense unless both of the following apply:

- (1) The person's liability is based on conduct that includes either a voluntary act, or an omission to perform an act or duty that the person is capable of performing;
- (2) The person has the requisite degree of culpability for each element as to which a culpable mental state is specified by the language defining the offense.

(b) When the language defining an offense does not specify any degree of culpability, and plainly indicates a purpose to impose strict criminal liability for the conduct described in the section, then culpability is not required for a person to be guilty of the offense. The fact that one subsection of a section plainly indicates a purpose to impose strict liability for an offense defined in that subsection does not by itself plainly indicate a purpose to impose strict criminal liability for an offense defined in other subsections of the section that do not specify a degree of culpability.

- (c)
  - (1) When language defining an element of an offense that is related to knowledge or intent or to which mens rea could fairly be applied neither specifies culpability nor plainly indicates a purpose to impose strict liability, the element of the offense is established only if a person acts recklessly.
  - (2) Subsection (c)(1) of this section does not apply to offenses defined in the Traffic Code.
  - (3) Subsection (c)(1) of this section does not relieve the prosecution of the burden of proving the culpable mental state required by any definition incorporated into the offense.

(d) Voluntary intoxication may not be taken into consideration in determining the existence of a mental state that is an element of a criminal offense. Voluntary intoxication does not relieve a person of a duty to act if failure to act constitutes a criminal offense. Evidence that a person was voluntarily intoxicated may be admissible to show whether or not the person was physically capable of performing the act with which the person is charged.

- (e) As used in this section:
- (1) Possession is a voluntary act if the possessor knowingly procured or received the thing possessed, or was aware of the possessor's control of the thing possessed for a sufficient time to have ended possession.
  - (2) Reflexes, convulsions, body movements during unconsciousness or sleep, and body movements that are not otherwise a product of the actor's volition, are involuntary acts.
  - (3) "Culpability" means purpose, knowledge, recklessness or negligence, as defined in Section 501.08.
  - (4) "Intoxication" includes, but is not limited to, intoxication resulting from the ingestion of alcohol, a drug, or alcohol and a drug.  
(ORC 2901.21)

**501.08 CULPABLE MENTAL STATES.**

(a) A person acts purposely when it is the person's specific intention to cause a certain result, or when the gist of the offense is a prohibition against conduct of a certain nature, regardless of what the offender intends to accomplish thereby, it is the offender's specific intention to engage in conduct of that nature.

(b) A person acts knowingly, regardless of purpose, when the person is aware that the person's conduct will probably cause a certain result or will probably be of a certain nature. A person has knowledge of circumstances when the person is aware that such circumstances probably exist.

When knowledge of the existence of a particular fact is an element of an offense, such knowledge is established if a person subjectively believes that there is a high probability of its existence and fails to make inquiry or acts with a conscious purpose to avoid learning the fact.

(c) A person acts recklessly when, with heedless indifference to the consequences, the person perversely disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the person's conduct is likely to cause a certain result or is likely to be of a certain nature. A person is reckless with respect to circumstances when, with heedless indifference to the consequences, the person perversely disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that such circumstances are likely to exist.

(d) A person acts negligently when, because of a substantial lapse from due care, the person fails to perceive or avoid a risk that the person's conduct may cause a certain result or may be of a certain nature. A person is negligent with respect to circumstances when, because of a substantial lapse from due care, the person fails to perceive or avoid a risk that such circumstances may exist.

(e) When the section defining an offense provides that negligence suffices to establish an element thereof, then recklessness, knowledge or purpose is also sufficient culpability for such element. When recklessness suffices to establish an element of an offense, then knowledge or purpose is also sufficient culpability for such element. When knowledge suffices to establish an element of an offense, then purpose is also sufficient culpability for such element.  
(ORC 2901.22)

#### **501.09 ATTEMPT.**

(a) No person, purposely or knowingly, and when purpose or knowledge is sufficient culpability for the commission of an offense, shall engage in conduct that, if successful, would constitute or result in the offense.

(b) It is no defense to a charge under this section that, in retrospect, commission of the offense that was the object of the attempt was either factually or legally impossible under the attendant circumstances, if that offense could have been committed had the attendant circumstances been as the actor believed them to be.

(c) No person who is convicted of committing a specific offense or of complicity in the commission of an offense, shall be convicted of an attempt to commit the same offense in violation of this section.

(d) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section that the actor abandoned the actor's effort to commit the offense or otherwise prevented its commission, under circumstances manifesting a complete and voluntary renunciation of the actor's criminal purpose.

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of an attempt to commit an offense. An attempt to commit a drug abuse offense for which the penalty is determined by the amount or number of unit doses of the controlled substance involved in the drug abuse offense is an offense of the same degree as the drug abuse offense attempted would be if that drug abuse offense had been committed and had involved an amount or number of unit doses of the controlled substance that is within the next lower range of controlled substance amounts than was involved in the attempt. An attempt to commit any other misdemeanor is a misdemeanor of the next lesser degree than the misdemeanor attempted. In the case of an attempt to commit an offense other than a violation of Ohio R.C. Chapter 3734 that is not specifically classified, an attempt is a misdemeanor of the first degree if the offense attempted is a felony under the Ohio Revised Code, and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree if the offense attempted is a misdemeanor. An attempt to commit a minor misdemeanor is not an offense under this section.

(f) As used in this section, "drug abuse offense" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2925.01. (ORC 2923.02)

#### **501.10 COMPLICITY.**

(a) No person, acting with the kind of culpability required for the commission of an offense, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Solicit or procure another to commit the offense;
- (2) Aid or abet another in committing the offense;
- (3) Cause an innocent or irresponsible person to commit the offense.

(b) It is no defense to a charge under this section that no person with whom the accused was in complicity has been convicted as a principal offender.

(c) No person shall be convicted of complicity under this section unless an offense is actually committed, but a person may be convicted of complicity in an attempt to commit an offense in violation of Section 501.09.

(d) If an alleged accomplice of the defendant testifies against the defendant in a case in which the defendant is charged with complicity in the commission of or an attempt to commit an offense, an attempt to commit an offense or an offense, the court when it charges the jury, shall state substantially the following:

"The testimony of an accomplice does not become inadmissible because of his complicity, moral turpitude or self-interest, but the admitted or claimed complicity of a witness may affect his credibility and make his testimony subject to grave suspicion, and require that it be weighed with great caution.

"It is for you, as jurors, in the light of all the facts presented to you from the witness stand, to evaluate such testimony and to determine its quality and worth or its lack of quality and worth."

(e) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section that, prior to the commission of or attempt to commit the offense, the actor terminated his complicity, under circumstances manifesting a complete and voluntary renunciation of his criminal purpose.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of complicity in the commission of an offense, and shall be prosecuted and punished as if he were a principal offender. A charge of complicity may be stated in terms of this section, or in terms of the principal offense. (ORC 2923.03)

#### **501.11 ORGANIZATIONAL CRIMINAL LIABILITY.**

(a) An organization may be convicted of an offense under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) The offense is a minor misdemeanor committed by an officer, agent or employee of the organization acting in its behalf and within the scope of the officer's, agent's or employee's office or employment, except that if the section defining the offense designates the officers, agents or employees for whose conduct the organization is accountable or the circumstances under which it is accountable, those provisions shall apply.

- (2) A purpose to impose organizational liability plainly appears in the section defining the offense, and the offense is committed by an officer, agent or employee of the organization acting in its behalf and within the scope of the officer's, agent's or employee's office or employment, except that if the section defining the offense designates the officers, agents or employees for whose conduct the organization is accountable or the circumstances under which it is accountable, those provisions shall apply.
- (3) The offense consists of an omission to discharge a specific duty imposed by law on the organization.
- (4) If, acting with the kind of culpability otherwise required for the commission of the offense, its commission was authorized, requested, commanded, tolerated or performed by the board of directors, trustees, partners or by a high managerial officer, agent or employee acting in behalf of the organization and within the scope of such a board's or person's office or employment.

(b) If strict liability is imposed for the commission of an offense, a purpose to impose organizational liability shall be presumed, unless the contrary plainly appears.

(c) In a prosecution of an organization for an offense other than one for which strict liability is imposed, it is a defense that the high managerial officer, agent or employee having supervisory responsibility over the subject matter of the offense exercised due diligence to prevent its commission. This defense is not available if it plainly appears inconsistent with the purpose of the section defining the offense.

(d) As used in this section, "organization" means a corporation for profit or not for profit, partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, unincorporated nonprofit association, estate, trust or other commercial or legal entity. "Organization" does not include an entity organized as or by a governmental agency for the execution of a governmental program. (ORC 2901.23)

#### **501.12 PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CONDUCT.**

(a) An officer, agent or employee of an organization as defined in Section 501.11 may be prosecuted for an offense committed by such organization, if he acts with the kind of culpability required for the commission of the offense, and any of the following apply:

- (1) In the name of the organization or in its behalf, he engages in conduct constituting the offense, or causes another to engage in such conduct, or tolerates such conduct when it is of a type for which he has direct responsibility;
- (2) He has primary responsibility to discharge a duty imposed on the organization by law, and such duty is not discharged.

(b) When a person is convicted of an offense by reason of this section, he is subject to the same penalty as if he had acted in his own behalf. (ORC 2901.24)

**501.13 CONSPIRACY.**

(a) No person, with purpose to commit or to promote or facilitate the commission of aggravated murder, murder, kidnapping, abduction, compelling prostitution, promoting prostitution, trafficking in persons, aggravated arson, arson, aggravated robbery, robbery, aggravated burglary, burglary, engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, corrupting another with drugs, a felony drug trafficking, manufacturing, processing or possession offense, theft of drugs, or illegal processing of drug documents, the commission of a felony offense of unauthorized use of a vehicle, illegally transmitting multiple commercial electronic mail messages or unauthorized access of a computer in violation of Ohio R.C. 2923.421 or the commission of a violation of any provision of Ohio R.C. Chapter 3734, other than Ohio R.C. 3734.18, that relates to hazardous wastes, shall do either of the following:

- (1) With another person or persons, plan or aid in planning the commission of any of the specified offenses;
- (2) Agree with another person or persons that one or more of them will engage in conduct that facilitates the commission of any of the specified offenses.

(b) No person shall be convicted of conspiracy unless a substantial overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy is alleged and proved to have been done by the accused or a person with whom the accused conspired, subsequent to the accused's entrance into the conspiracy. For purposes of this section, an overt act is substantial when it is of a character that manifests a purpose on the part of the actor that the object of the conspiracy should be completed.

(c) When the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a person with whom the offender conspires also has conspired or is conspiring with another to commit the same offense, the offender is guilty of conspiring with that other person, even though the other person's identity may be unknown to the offender.

(d) It is no defense to a charge under this section that, in retrospect, commission of the offense that was the object of the conspiracy was impossible under the circumstances.

(e) A conspiracy terminates when the offense or offenses that are its objects are committed or when it is abandoned by all conspirators. In the absence of abandonment, it is no defense to a charge under this section that no offense that was the object of the conspiracy was committed.

(f) A person who conspires to commit more than one offense is guilty of only one conspiracy, when the offenses are the object of the same agreement or continuous conspiratorial relationship.

(g) When a person is convicted of committing or attempting to commit a specific offense or of complicity in the commission of or attempt to commit the specific offense, the person shall not be convicted of conspiracy involving the same offense.

- (h)
  - (1) No person shall be convicted of conspiracy upon the testimony of a person with whom the defendant conspired, unsupported by other evidence.
  - (2) If a person with whom the defendant allegedly has conspired testifies against the defendant in a case in which the defendant is charged with conspiracy and if the testimony is supported by other evidence, the court, when it charges the jury, shall state substantially the following:

“The testimony of an accomplice that is supported by other evidence does not become inadmissible because of the accomplice's complicity, moral turpitude, or self-interest, but the admitted or claimed complicity of a witness may affect the witness' credibility and make the witness' testimony subject to grave suspicion, and requires that it be weighed with great caution.



It is for you, as jurors, in light of all the facts presented to you from the witness stand, to evaluate such testimony and to determine its quality and worth or its lack of quality and worth”.

- (3) “Conspiracy”, as used in subsection (h)(1) of this section, does not include any conspiracy that results in an attempt to commit an offense or in the commission of an offense.

(i) The following are affirmative defenses to a charge of conspiracy:

- (1) After conspiring to commit an offense, the actor thwarted the success of the conspiracy under circumstances manifesting a complete and voluntary renunciation of the actor’s criminal purpose.
- (2) After conspiring to commit an offense, the actor abandoned the conspiracy prior to the commission of or attempt to commit any offense that was the object of the conspiracy, either by advising all other conspirators of the actor’s abandonment, or by informing any law enforcement authority of the existence of the conspiracy and of the actor’s participation in the conspiracy.

(j) Whoever violates this section is guilty of conspiracy, which is a misdemeanor of the first degree, when the most serious offense that is the object of the conspiracy is a felony of the fifth degree.

(k) This section does not define a separate conspiracy offense or penalty where conspiracy is defined as an offense by one or more sections of this Code, other than this section. In such a case, however:

- (1) With respect to the offense specified as the object of the conspiracy in the other section or sections, subsection (a) hereof defines the voluntary act or acts and culpable mental state necessary to constitute the conspiracy;
- (2) Subsections (b) to (i) hereof are incorporated by reference in the conspiracy offense defined by the other section or sections of this Code.

(l) (1) In addition to the penalties that otherwise are imposed for conspiracy, a person who is found guilty of conspiracy to engage in a pattern of corrupt activity is subject to divisions (B)(2) and (3) of Ohio R.C. 2923.32, division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2981.04 and division (D) of Ohio R.C. 2981.06.

- (2) If a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to conspiracy and if the most serious offense that is the object of the conspiracy is a felony drug trafficking, manufacturing, processing or possession offense, in addition to the penalties or sanctions that may be imposed for the conspiracy under subsection (j) hereof and Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, both of the following apply:

A. The provisions of divisions (D), (F) and (G) of Ohio R.C. 2925.03, division (D) of Ohio R.C. 2925.04, division (D) of Ohio R.C. 2925.05, division (D) of Ohio R.C. 2925.06 and division (E) of Ohio R.C. 2925.11 that pertain to mandatory and additional fines, driver’s or commercial driver’s license or permit suspensions, and professionally licensed persons and that would apply under the appropriate provisions of those divisions to a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to the felony drug trafficking, manufacturing, processing, or possession offense that is the most serious offense that is the basis of the conspiracy shall apply to the person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to the conspiracy as if the person had been convicted or pleaded guilty to the felony drug trafficking, manufacturing, processing or possession offense that is the most serious offense that is the basis of the conspiracy.

- B. The court that imposes sentence upon the person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to the conspiracy shall comply with the provisions identified as being applicable under subsection (l)(2) of this section, in addition to any other penalty or sanction that it imposes for the conspiracy under subsection (j) of this section and Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929.
- (m) As used in this section:
- (1) “Felony drug trafficking, manufacturing, processing or possession offense” means any of the following that is a felony:
    - A. A violation of Ohio R.C. 2925.03, 2925.04, 2925.05, or 2925.06;
    - B. A violation of Ohio R.C. 2925.11 that is not a minor drug possession offense.
  - (2) “Minor drug possession offense” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2925.01. (ORC 2923.01)

#### **501.99 PENALTIES FOR MISDEMEANORS.**

(a) Financial Sanctions. In addition to imposing court costs pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2947.23, the court imposing a sentence upon an offender for a misdemeanor committed under the Codified Ordinances, including a minor misdemeanor, may sentence the offender to any financial sanction or combination of financial sanctions authorized under this section. If the court in its discretion imposes one or more financial sanctions, the financial sanctions that may be imposed pursuant to this section include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Restitution. Unless the misdemeanor offense is a minor misdemeanor or could be disposed of by the traffic violations bureau serving the court under Traffic Rule 13, restitution by the offender to the victim of the offender’s crime or any survivor of the victim, in an amount based on the victim’s economic loss. The court may not impose restitution as a sanction pursuant to this section if the offense is a minor misdemeanor or could be disposed of by the traffic violations bureau serving the court under Traffic Rule 13. If the court requires restitution, the court shall order that the restitution be made to the victim in open court or to the adult probation department that serves the jurisdiction or the clerk of the court on behalf of the victim. If the court imposes restitution, the court shall determine the amount of restitution to be paid by the offender. If the court imposes restitution, the court may base the amount of restitution it orders on an amount recommended by the victim, the offender, a presentence investigation report, estimates or receipts indicating the cost of repairing or replacing property, and other information, provided that the amount the court orders as restitution shall not exceed the amount of the economic loss suffered by the victim as a direct and proximate result of the commission of the offense. If the court decides to impose restitution, the court shall hold an evidentiary hearing on restitution if the offender, victim or survivor disputes the amount of restitution. If the court holds an evidentiary hearing, at the hearing the victim or survivor has the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence the amount of restitution sought from the offender. All restitution payments shall be credited against any recovery of economic loss in a civil action brought by the victim or any survivor of the victim against the offender. No person may introduce evidence of an award of restitution under this section in a civil action for purposes of imposing liability against an insurer under Ohio R.C. 3937.18. If the court imposes restitution, the court may order that the offender pay a surcharge, of not more than five per cent of the amount of the restitution otherwise ordered, to the entity responsible for collecting and processing restitution payments.

The victim or survivor may request that the prosecutor in the case file a motion, or the offender may file a motion, for modification of the payment terms of any restitution ordered. If the court grants the motion, it may modify the payment terms as it determines appropriate.

- (2) Fines. A fine in the following amount:
- A. For a misdemeanor of the first degree, not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000);
  - B. For a misdemeanor of the second degree, not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00);
  - C. For a misdemeanor of the third degree, not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00);
  - D. For a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00);
  - E. For a minor misdemeanor, not more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (3) Reimbursement of costs of sanctions.
- A. Reimbursement by the offender of any or all of the costs of sanctions incurred by the government, including, but not limited to, the following:
    - 1. All or part of the costs of implementing any community control sanction, including a supervision fee under Ohio R.C. 2951.021;
    - 2. All or part of the costs of confinement in a jail or other residential facility, including, but not limited to, a per diem fee for room and board, the costs of medical and dental treatment, and the costs of repairing property damaged by the offender while confined.
  - B. The amount of reimbursement ordered under subsection (a)(3)A. of this section shall not exceed the total amount of reimbursement the offender is able to pay and shall not exceed the actual cost of the sanctions. The court may collect any amount of reimbursement the offender is required to pay under that subsection. If the court does not order reimbursement under that subsection, confinement costs may be assessed pursuant to a repayment policy adopted under Ohio R.C. 2929.37. In addition, the offender may be required to pay the fees specified in Ohio R.C. 2929.38 in accordance with that section. (ORC 2929.28)
- (b) Jail Terms.
- (1) Except as provided in Ohio R.C. 2929.22 or 2929.23 of the Revised Code, and unless another term is required or authorized pursuant to law, if the sentencing court imposing a sentence upon an offender for a misdemeanor elects or is required to impose a jail term on the offender pursuant to this General Offenses Code, the court shall impose a definite jail term that shall be one of the following:
- A. For a misdemeanor of the first degree, not more than one hundred eighty days;
  - B. For a misdemeanor of the second degree, not more than ninety days;
  - C. For a misdemeanor of the third degree, not more than sixty days;
  - D. For a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, not more than thirty days.

- (2) A. A court that sentences an offender to a jail term under this section may permit the offender to serve the sentenced in intermittent confinement or may authorize a limited release of the offender as provided in Ohio R.C. 2929.26(B). The court retains jurisdiction over every offender sentenced to jail to modify the jail sentence imposed at any time, but the court shall not reduce any mandatory jail term.
- B. 1. If a prosecutor, as defined in Ohio R.C. 2935.01, has filed a notice with the court that the prosecutor wants to be notified about a particular case and if the court is considering modifying the jail sentence of the offender in that case, the court shall notify the prosecutor that the court is considering modifying the jail sentence of the offender in that case. The prosecutor may request a hearing regarding the court's consideration of modifying the jail sentence of the offender in that case, and, if the prosecutor requests a hearing, the court shall notify the eligible offender of the hearing.
2. If the prosecutor requests a hearing regarding the court's consideration of modifying the jail sentence of the offender in that case, the court shall hold the hearing before considering whether or not to release the offender from the offender's jail sentence.
- (3) If a court sentences an offender to a jail term under this section and the court assigns the offender to a county jail that has established a county jail industry program pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5147.30, the court shall specify, as part of the sentence, whether the offender may be considered for participation in the program. During the offender's term in the county jail, the court retains jurisdiction to modify its specification regarding the offender's participation in the county jail industry program.
- (4) If a person is sentenced to a jail term pursuant to this section, the court may impose as part of the sentence pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 a reimbursement sanction, and, if the local detention facility in which the term is to be served is covered by a policy adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. 307.93, 341.14, 341.19, 341.21, 341.23, 753.02, 753.04, 753.16, 2301.56, or 2947.19 and Ohio R.C. 2929.37, both of the following apply:
- A. The court shall specify both of the following as part of the sentence:
1. If the person is presented with an itemized bill pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.37 for payment of the costs of confinement, the person is required to pay the bill in accordance with that section.
2. If the person does not dispute the bill described in subsection (b)(4)A.1. of this section and does not pay the bill by the times specified in Ohio R.C. 2929.37, the clerk of the court may issue a certificate of judgment against the person as described in that section.
- B. The sentence automatically includes any certificate of judgment issued as described in subsection (b)(4)A.2. of this section.  
(ORC 2929.24)

(c) Organizations. Regardless of the penalties provided in subsections (a) and (b) hereof, an organization convicted of an offense pursuant to Section 501.11 shall be fined, in accordance with this section. The court shall fix the fine as follows:

Type of <u>Misdemeanor</u>	Maximum <u>Fine</u>
First degree	\$5000.00
Second degree	4000.00
Third degree	3000.00
Fourth degree	2000.00
Minor	1000.00
Misdemeanor not specifically classified	2000.00
Minor misdemeanor not specifically classified	1000.00

- (1) When an organization is convicted of an offense that is not specifically classified, and the section defining the offense or penalty plainly indicates a purpose to impose the penalty provided for violation upon organizations, then the penalty so provided shall be imposed in lieu of the penalty provided in this subsection (c).
- (2) When an organization is convicted of an offense that is not specifically classified, and the penalty provided includes a higher fine than the fine that is provided in this subsection (c), then the penalty imposed shall be pursuant to the penalty provided for the violation of the section defining the offense.
- (3) This subsection (c) does not prevent the imposition of available civil sanctions against an organization convicted of an offense pursuant to Section 501.11, either in addition to or in lieu of a fine imposed pursuant to this subsection (c).

(ORC 2929.31)



**CHAPTER 505  
Animals and Fowl**

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| <p><b>505.01</b> Definitions.</p> <p><b>505.02</b> Dogs and other animals running at large.</p> <p><b>505.03</b> Impounding and disposition; records.</p> <p><b>505.04</b> Annual registration of dogs; tags required.</p> <p><b>505.05</b> Abandoning animals.</p> <p><b>505.06</b> Killing or injuring animals.</p> <p><b>505.07</b> Poisoning animals.</p> <p><b>505.08</b> Cruelty to animals generally.</p> <p><b>505.081</b> Cruelty to companion animals.</p> <p><b>505.09</b> Nuisance conditions prohibited.</p> <p><b>505.10</b> Barking or howling dogs.</p> <p><b>505.11</b> Animal bites; reports and quarantine.</p> | <p><b>505.12</b> Montgomery County Humane Society services.</p> <p><b>505.13</b> Coloring rabbits or baby poultry; sale or display of poultry.</p> <p><b>505.14</b> Proximity of animals to human habitations.</p> <p><b>505.15</b> Exhibitions or fights involving animals, reptiles or fowl.</p> <p><b>505.16</b> Minimum lot size for farm animals.</p> <p><b>505.99</b> Penalty.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Owner or keeper liable for damages - see Ohio R.C. 951.10  
 Dog registration - see Ohio R.C. 955.01  
 Dangerous animals - see GEN. OFF. Ch. 507  
 Discharging weapons; exceptions - see GEN. OFF. 549.08

**505.01 DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply, unless the context shall indicate another or different meaning or intent:

- (a) "Community Services Officer" means the Chief Animal Control Officer of the City of Moraine or his duly authorized representative.
- (b) "Dangerous dog" means a dog that, without provocation, has chased or approached in either a menacing fashion or an apparent attitude of attack, or has attempted to bite or otherwise endanger any person, while that dog is off the premises of its owner, keeper, harbinger, and not under the reasonable control of its owner, keeper, harbinger or some other responsible person, or not physically restrained or confined in a locked pen which has a top, locked fenced yard, or other locked enclosure which has a top.

- (c) “Domestic animal” means a tamed animal which is not listed as a “dangerous animal” in Section 507.01.
- (d) “Farm animal” means horses, mules or other equidae, cattle, sheep and goats and other bovidae, swine and other suidae.
- (e) “Impounded” means taken into the custody of the public pound at Montgomery County Humane Society in the City of Dayton.
- (f) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as used in Section 501.01.
- (g) “Menacing fashion” means that a dog would cause any person being chased or approached to reasonably believe that the dog will cause physical injury to that person.
- (h) “Owner” means any person, firm, corporation, organization or department possessing, harboring, keeping, having an interest in, or having control or custody of an animal.
- (i) “Person” means a natural person or any legal entity, including but not limited to, a corporation, firm, partnership or trust.
- (j) “Police dog” means a dog that has been trained, certified and/or approved by the State and may be used to assist one or more law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.02 DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE.**

(a) No person being the owner or having charge of cattle, sheep, geese, ducks, turkeys, chickens or other fowl or animals shall permit them to run at large upon any public place, or upon any unenclosed lands, or upon the premises of another.

(b) No person being the owner of or having charge of any dog, whether wearing a registration tag or not, shall permit it to run at large upon any public place or upon the premises of another. No owner, keeper or harbinger of any female dog shall permit such dog to go beyond the premises of such owner or keeper at any time such dog is in heat, unless such dog is properly in leash. The owner or keeper of every dog shall at all times keep such dog either confined upon the premises of the owner or keeper, or under reasonable control of some person.  
(ORC 955.22)

(c) The running at large of any such animal in or upon any of the places mentioned in this section is prima-facie evidence that it is running at large in violation of this section.  
(ORC 951.02)

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 955.99(A); Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)



**505.03 IMPOUNDING AND DISPOSITION; RECORDS.**

(a) The Community Services Officer or any police officer may impound every animal or dog found in violation of Section 505.02. If the impounded dog is not wearing a valid registration tag, the dog shall forthwith be turned over to an officer charged by law with the custody and disposal of such dogs. If the dog is wearing a valid registration tag or the identity of the owner or harbinger is otherwise established, notice shall immediately be given to such owner or harbinger that the dog has been impounded. Notice may be by telephone or by ordinary mail to the last known address of such owner or harbinger. The dog shall not be released except upon the payment of reasonable expenses for its taking and keeping. Any dog not redeemed within three days of the time it is seized or impounded may be sold or otherwise disposed of as provided by Ohio R.C. 955.16.

(b) A record of all dogs impounded, the disposition of the same, the owner's name and address, if known, and a statement of any costs or receipts involving such dog shall be kept. (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.04 ANNUAL REGISTRATION OF DOGS; TAGS REQUIRED.**

(a) Except for guide dogs registered under Ohio R.C. 955.011 and dogs kept by an institution or organization for teaching and research purposes under Ohio R.C. 955.16, no person shall own, keep or harbor a dog more than three months of age without annually registering such dog with the County Auditor. Failure of any dog at any time to wear a valid registration tag shall be prima-facie evidence of lack of registration and subject such dog to impounding and disposition as provided by Ohio R.C. 955.16.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor for a first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for each subsequent offense. (ORC 955.99(D); Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94)

**505.05 ABANDONING ANIMALS.**

(a) No owner or keeper of a dog, cat or other domestic animal shall abandon such animal. (ORC 959.01)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the first degree on each subsequent offense. (ORC 959.99)

**505.06 KILLING OR INJURING ANIMALS.**

(a) No person shall maliciously, or willfully, and without the consent of the owner, kill or injure a farm animal, dog, cat or other domestic animal that is the property of another. This section does not apply to a licensed veterinarian acting in an official capacity, or to trespassing animals as set forth in Ohio R.C. 959.04. (ORC 959.02)

(b) Whoever violates this section, if the value of the animal killed or the injury done amounts to less than three hundred dollars (\$300.00), is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree; if the value of the animal killed or the injury done amounts to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or more, such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 959.99(B); Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.07 POISONING ANIMALS.**

(a) No person shall maliciously, or willfully and without the consent of the owner, administer poison, except a licensed veterinarian acting in such capacity, to a farm animal, dog, cat, poultry or other domestic animal that is the property of another; and no person shall, willfully and without the consent of the owner, place any poisoned food where it may be easily found and eaten by any of such animals, either upon his own lands or the lands of another. This section does not apply to trespassing animals as set forth in Ohio R.C. 959.04.  
(ORC 959.03)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.  
(ORC 959.99(C); Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.08 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GENERALLY.**

(a) No person shall:

- (1) Torture an animal, deprive one of necessary sustenance, unnecessarily or cruelly beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, or impound or confine an animal without supplying it during such confinement with a sufficient quantity of good wholesome food and water;
- (2) Impound or confine an animal without affording it, during such confinement, access to shelter from wind, rain, snow or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the animal would otherwise become sick or in some other way suffer. This subsection (a)(2) does not apply to animals impounded or confined prior to slaughter. For the purpose of this section, "shelter" means a man-made enclosure, windbreak, sunshade or natural windbreak or sunshade that is developed from the earth's contour, tree development or vegetation;
- (3) Carry or convey an animal in a cruel or inhuman manner;
- (4) Keep animals other than cattle, poultry or fowl, swine, sheep or goats in an enclosure without wholesome exercise and change of air, nor feed cows on food that produces impure or unwholesome milk;
- (5) Detain livestock in railroad cars or compartments longer than twenty-eight hours after they are so placed without supplying them with necessary food, water and attention, nor permit such livestock to be so crowded as to overlie, crush, wound or kill each other.

(b) Upon the written request of the owner or person in custody of any particular shipment of livestock, which written request shall be separate and apart from any printed bill of lading or other railroad form, the length of time in which such livestock may be detained in any cars or compartments without food, water and attention, may be extended to thirty-six hours without penalty therefor. This section does not prevent the dehorning of cattle.  
(ORC 959.13)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. In addition, the court may order the offender to forfeit the animal or livestock and may provide for its disposition including, but not limited to, the sale of the animal or livestock. If an animal or livestock is forfeited and sold pursuant to this subsection, the proceeds from the sale first shall be applied to pay the expenses incurred with regard to the care of the animal from the time it was taken from the custody of the former owner. The balance of the proceeds from the sale, if any, shall be paid to the former owner of the animal.  
(ORC 959.99(D); Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

#### **505.081 CRUELTY TO COMPANION ANIMALS.**

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Companion animal" means any animal that is kept inside a residential dwelling and any dog or cat regardless of where it is kept, including a pet store as defined in Ohio R.C. 956.01. "Companion animal" does not include livestock or any wild animal.
- (2) "Cruelty", "torment" and "torture" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 1717.01.
- (3) "Residential dwelling" means a structure or shelter or the portion of a structure or shelter that is used by one or more humans for the purpose of a habitation.
- (4) "Practice of veterinary medicine" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4741.01.
- (5) "Wild animal" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 1531.01.
- (6) "Federal animal welfare act" means the "Laboratory Animal Act of 1966", Pub. L. No. 89-544, 80 Stat. 350 (1966), 7 U.S.C.A. 2131 et seq., as amended by the "Animal Welfare Act of 1970", Pub. L. No. 91-579, 84 Stat. 1560 (1970), the "Animal Welfare Act Amendments of 1976", Pub. L. No. 94-279, 90 Stat. 417 (1976), and the "Food Security Act of 1985", Pub. L. No. 99-198, 99 Stat. 1354 (1985), and as it may be subsequently amended.
- (7) "Dog kennel" means an animal rescue for dogs that is registered under Ohio R.C. 956.06, a boarding kennel or a training kennel.

(b) No person shall knowingly torture, torment, needlessly mutilate or maim, cruelly beat, poison, needlessly kill, or commit an act of cruelty against a companion animal.

(c) No person who confines or who is the custodian or caretaker of a companion animal shall negligently do any of the following:

- (1) Torture, torment or commit an act or cruelty against the companion animal;
- (2) Deprive the companion animal of necessary sustenance, or confine the companion animal without supplying it during the confinement with sufficient quantities of good, wholesome food and water, if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the deprivation or confinement;
- (3) Impound or confine the companion animal without affording it, during the impoundment or confinement, with access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow, or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the lack of adequate shelter.

- (d) No owner, manager or employee of a dog kennel who confines or is the custodian or caretaker of a companion animal shall negligently do any of the following:
- (1) Torture, torment, or commit an act of cruelty against the companion animal;
  - (2) Deprive the companion animal of necessary sustenance, or confine the companion animal without supplying it during the confinement with sufficient quantities of good, wholesome food and water, if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the deprivation or confinement;
  - (3) Impound or confine the companion animal without affording it, during the impoundment or confinement, with access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the lack of adequate shelter.
- (e) Subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this section do not apply to any of the following:
- (1) A companion animal used in scientific research conducted by an institution in accordance with the federal animal welfare act and related regulations;
  - (2) The lawful practice of veterinary medicine by a person who has been issued a license, temporary permit, or registration certificate to do so under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4741;
  - (3) Dogs being used or intended for use for hunting or field trial purposes, provided that the dogs are being treated in accordance with usual and commonly accepted practices for the care of hunting dogs;
  - (4) The use of common training devices, if the companion animal is being treated in accordance with usual and commonly accepted practices for the training of animals;
  - (5) The administering of medicine to a companion animal that was properly prescribed by a person who has been issued a license, temporary permit, or registration certificate under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4741.  
(ORC 959.131)
- (f)
- (1) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree on a first offense. On each subsequent offense such person is guilty of a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (2) Whoever violates subsection (c) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the first degree on each subsequent offense.
  - (3) Whoever violates subsection (d) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
  - (4) A. A court may order a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section to forfeit to an impounding agency, as defined in Ohio R.C. 959.132, any or all of the companion animals in that person's ownership or care. The court also may prohibit or place limitations on the person's ability to own or care for any companion animals for a specified or indefinite period of time.

- B. A court may order a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section to reimburse an impounding agency for the reasonably necessary costs incurred by the agency for the care of a companion animal that the agency impounded as a result of the investigation or prosecution of the violation, provided that the costs were not otherwise paid under Ohio R.C. 959.132.
- (5) If a court has reason to believe that a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section suffers from a mental or emotional disorder that contributed to the violation, the court may impose as a community control sanction or as a condition of probation a requirement that the offender undergo psychological evaluation or counseling. The court shall order the offender to pay the costs of the evaluation or counseling. (ORC 959.99)

**505.09 NUISANCE CONDITIONS PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any animal or fowl in the Municipality so as to create noxious, or offensive odors or unsanitary conditions which are a menace to the health, comfort or safety of the public.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.10 BARKING OR HOWLING DOGS.**

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any dog within the Municipality which, by frequent and habitual barking, howling or yelping, creates unreasonably loud and disturbing noises of such a character, intensity and duration as to disturb the peace, quiet and good order of the Municipality. Any person who shall allow any dog habitually to remain, be lodged or fed within any dwelling, building, yard or enclosure, which he occupies or owns, shall be considered as harboring such dog.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.11 ANIMAL BITES; REPORTS AND QUARANTINE.**

(a) Whenever any person is bitten by a dog or other animal, report of such bite shall be made to the Montgomery County Health Commissioner within twenty-four hours. Whenever it is reported to the Montgomery County Health Commissioner that any dog or cat has bitten a person, that dog or cat shall be quarantined under an order issued by the Health Commissioner. The dog or cat shall be quarantined by its owner or by a harborer, or shall be quarantined in a pound or kennel. In all cases, such quarantine shall be under the supervision of the Health Commissioner and shall be at the expense of the owner or harborer. Quarantine shall continue until the Health Commissioner determines that the dog or cat is not afflicted with rabies. The quarantine period hereby required shall not be less than ten days from the date on which the person was bitten. If at any time during the quarantine, the Health Commissioner requires the dog or cat to be examined for symptoms of rabies, then the examination shall be by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. The veterinarian shall report to the Health Commissioner the conclusions reached as a result of the examinations. The examination by a veterinarian shall be at the expense

of the owner or harbinger. No dog or cat shall be released from the required quarantine unless and until it has been properly vaccinated against rabies.

No person shall fail to comply with the requirements of this section or with any order of the Health Commissioner made pursuant thereto, nor fail to immediately report to the Health Commissioner any symptoms or behavior suggestive of rabies.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

### **505.12 MONTGOMERY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY SERVICES.**

(a) Disposition of Impounded Dogs. Impounded dogs may be placed in the animal shelter maintained by the Montgomery County Humane Society, maintenance to be at the expense of such owner or other person having charge or control of the dog.

(b) Contract Authorized. The City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with the Montgomery County Humane Society to provide an animal control officer in conjunction with the cities of West Carrollton and Miamisburg.

(c) Compensation and Equipment. The contract shall provide for an animal control officer to be assigned by the Montgomery County Humane Society to work exclusively in the cities of Moraine, West Carrollton and Miamisburg and that the City of Moraine and the remaining cities shall compensate the Humane Society on the basis of the services actually rendered to each city. The contract shall further provide that the initial capital cost necessary to provide the necessary equipment for the animal control officer shall be divided equally by the three cities.

(d) Level of Services. For the services contracted, it is specifically agreed between the City of Moraine and the Montgomery County Humane Society, shall be in addition to the level of services now provided to the City of Moraine by the Montgomery County Humane Society and the level of services now provided by the Humane Society to the cities of Miamisburg and West Carrollton.

(e) Citation and Notice. The animal control officer, his agents and deputies, in addition to City police officers, are hereby authorized to issue citations for the purpose of giving notice to persons violating Chapter 505. Such notice shall be given by delivering the citation personally to the violator or by mailing it to his last known address, or by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(f) Plea of Guilty. Any citation shall direct the violator to appear and to present the citation to the Clerk of the Mayor's Court's office, on or before the date and hour specified thereon. Upon presentation of the citation to the Clerk, the violator may file a written plea of guilty with the Clerk and pay the waiver fine established by the Mayor, or register for court appearance and receive a date for hearing upon the charge.

(g) Moneys to be Paid County Treasurer. Six dollars (\$6.00) of the moneys collected from each citation issued pursuant to the authority herein shall be paid to the Montgomery County Treasurer for the account of the Montgomery County Humane Society pursuant to the execution of the agreements herein referred to and shall be in addition to all other moneys which the City is to pay under the terms of the contract.

(h) Authorization to Expend Funds. The City Manager is authorized to enter into such contract with the Montgomery County Humane Society and to expend a sum in excess of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) therefor, upon the approval of the contract by the City Manager. (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.13 COLORING RABBITS OR BABY POULTRY; SALE OR DISPLAY OF POULTRY.**

(a) No person shall dye or otherwise color any rabbit or baby poultry, including, but not limited to, chicks and ducklings. No person shall sell, offer for sale, expose for sale, raffle or give away any rabbit or poultry which has been dyed or otherwise colored. No poultry younger than four weeks of age may be sold, given away or otherwise distributed to any person in lots of less than six. Stores, shops, vendors and others offering young poultry for sale or other distribution shall provide and operate brooders or other heating devices that may be necessary to maintain poultry in good health, and shall keep adequate food and water available to the poultry at all times. (ORC 925.62)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.14 PROXIMITY OF ANIMALS TO HUMAN HABITATIONS.**

(a) No person shall keep a pig, horse, cow, goat, more than three dogs at least three months of age or any other animal, fowl or poultry in an exterior pen, yard, lot, or other similar enclosure situated within 200 feet of an inhabited dwelling house, other than the house occupied by the owner of such animal, fowl or poultry.

(b) This restriction shall not be applicable to property zoned A-1 (Agricultural District) nor shall it apply to property annexed into the City that was similarly zoned prior to said annexation and which has been continuously used for permitted uses under prior zoning applicable to said property or is being used for agricultural purposes under Section 1135.02(a)(1) of the Moraine Codified Ordinances.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (Ord. 1667-07. Passed 4-12-07.)

**505.15 EXHIBITIONS OR FIGHTS INVOLVING ANIMALS, REPTILES OR FOWL.**

(a) No person shall knowingly participate in any way or be employed at any of the following:

- (1) Dog fighting;
- (2) Cock fighting;
- (3) Bear baiting; or
- (4) Any other exhibition or contest in which any animal, reptile or fowl is placed in combative physical competition against another of its own or a different species, including human beings.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.16 MINIMUM LOT SIZE FOR FARM ANIMALS.**

(a) No person being the owner or having charge of a farm animal as defined in Section 505.01(d) shall keep or harbor such animal on private or public land not in compliance with the required minimal lot area.

(1) Minimal lot area required for any one member of the defined farm animal species shall require one (1) acre of open land.

(b) No person being the owner or having charge of a farm animal shall keep or harbor such animal if not in compliance with the provisions of Section 505.14.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**505.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)



**CHAPTER 507**  
**Dangerous Animals**

<b>507.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>507.12</b>	<b>Term and renewal of permits.</b>
<b>507.02</b>	<b>Prohibitions.</b>	<b>507.13</b>	<b>Inspection for renewal.</b>
<b>507.03</b>	<b>Exceptions; permit and registration requirements.</b>	<b>507.14</b>	<b>Revocation of permits.</b>
<b>507.04</b>	<b>Exemptions.</b>	<b>507.15</b>	<b>Commercial establishments.</b>
<b>507.05</b>	<b>Notice of keeping dangerous animals.</b>	<b>507.16</b>	<b>Administrative appeals.</b>
<b>507.06</b>	<b>Seizure and impounding of dangerous animals.</b>	<b>507.17</b>	<b>Appeal to Common Pleas Court.</b>
<b>507.07</b>	<b>Permit required.</b>	<b>507.18</b>	<b>Costs to be paid by responsible persons.</b>
<b>507.08</b>	<b>Issuance of permit.</b>	<b>507.19</b>	<b>Report of escape of dangerous animal or vicious dog. (Repealed)</b>
<b>507.09</b>	<b>Application for permit.</b>	<b>507.20</b>	<b>Severability.</b>
<b>507.10</b>	<b>Permit fee.</b>	<b>507.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>
<b>507.11</b>	<b>Temporary permits; powers of Animal Control Officer.</b>		

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Power to restrain and impound animals - see Ohio R.C. 715.23  
 Owner or keeper liable for damages - see Ohio R.C. 951.10  
 Animals and fowl generally - see GEN. OFF. Ch. 505  
 Dangerous, nuisance and vicious dogs - see GEN. OFF. Ch. 508  
 Animal bites - see GEN. OFF. 505.11

**507.01 DEFINITIONS.**

- (a) For the purposes of this chapter, “dangerous animal” means and includes:
- (1) Any mammal, amphibian, reptile or fowl which is of a species which, due to size, vicious nature or other characteristics, would constitute a danger to human life, physical well-being or property including, but not limited to the animals listed:

- A. All crotalids, elapids and venomous colubroid snakes;
- B. Apes: Gibbons (*hylobates*); gorillas (*Gorilla*); orangutans (*Pongo*); and siamangs (*Symphalangus*);
- C. Baboons (*Papoi*, *Mandrillus*);
- D. Bears (*Ursidae*);
- E. Bison (*Bison*);
- F. Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*);
- G. Crocodilians (*Crocodylia*) when twenty-four (24) inches in length or more;
- H. Constrictor snakes exceeding six (6) feet in length;
- I. Coyotes (*Canis latrans*);
- J. Deer (*Cervidae*), includes all members of the deer family, for example, white-tailed deer, elk, antelope and moose;
- K. Elephants (*Elephas* and *Loxodonta*);
- L. Foxes (*Canis Latrans*);
- M. Game cocks and other fighting birds;
- N. Hippopotami (*Hippopotamidae*);
- O. Hyenas (*Hyaenidae*);
- P. Jaguars (*Panthera pardus*);
- Q. Leopards (*Panthera pardus*);
- R. Lions (*Panthera leo*);
- S. Lynxes (*Lynx*);
- T. Ostriches (*Struthio*);
- U. Piranha fish (*Characidae*), except those considered vegeterians;
- V. Pumas (*Felis concolor*), also known as cougars, mountain lions and panthers;
- W. Rhinoceroses (*Rhinocero tidae*);
- X. Sharks (Class *Chondrichtyes*);
- Y. Snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*);
- Z. Swine (*Suidae*);
- AA. Tigers (*Panthera tigris*);
- BB. Wolves (*Canis lupus*);
- CC. Scorpions;
- DD. Birds of prey, except of those held by licensed falconers;
- EE. Venomous fish;
- FF. Poisonous spiders, except for tarantulas;
- GG. Stinging insects (except honey bees);
- HH. Bats.

“Dangerous animal” also any species whose average adult weight is twenty (20) pounds or more, which are poisonous or otherwise present a risk of serious physical harm or death to human beings as a result of their nature or physical makeup.

(ORC 955.11)

- (2) (EDITOR’S NOTE: Former subsections (a)(2), (3) and (4) were repealed by Ordinance 1870-13, passed September 12, 2013. See Chapter 508 for current regulations.)

- (b) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as used in Section 501.01 of these Codified Ordinances.
- (c) “Person” includes any natural person, association, partnership, organization or corporation.
- (d) “Serious physical harm” means:
  - (1) Any physical harm which carries a substantial risk of death;
  - (2) Any physical harm which involves some permanent incapacity, whether partial or total, or which involves some temporary, substantial incapacity;
  - (3) Any physical harm which involves some permanent disfigurement, or which involves some temporary, serious disfigurement;
  - (4) Any physical harm which involves acute pain of such duration as to result in substantial suffering, or which involves any degree of prolonged or intractable pain.
- (e) “Secured” means securely confined indoors, or securely restrained by means of a collar and chain, pen, cage, fence, or similar physical device, and in such a manner which effectively prevents an animal from going beyond the premises of the owner.
- (f) “Own, keep or harbor” means to have legal title, own, possess, maintain or have care, custody or control.
- (g) “Unconfined” means not securely confined indoors or confined in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure upon the premises of the owner, keeper or harborer, with such pen or structure having secure sides and a secure top. A pen or structure shall not be deemed securely enclosed where it has no bottom secured to the sides, unless the sides are embedded in the ground no less than twelve inches.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

#### **507.02 PROHIBITIONS.**

Except as provided in Sections 507.03 and 507.04, no person shall own, keep or harbor any dangerous animal in the City of Moraine.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

#### **507.03 EXCEPTIONS; PERMIT AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

Any person or organization which falls into one of the following subsections shall be permitted to own, harbor or have charge, custody, control or possession of any animal described in Section 507.01 provided he/she has first secured a permit under Section 507.07; provided further that owners, keepers or harborers of “vicious dogs” shall also be required to register their animals in accordance with the provisions of this section and Section 505.04:

- (a) The keeping of such animals in zoos, bona fide educational or medical institutions, museums or any other place where they are kept as live specimens for the public to view, or for the purpose of instruction or study.
- (b) The keeping of such animals for exhibition to the public of such animals by a circus, carnival or other exhibit or show.
- (c) The keeping of such animals in a bona fide, licensed veterinary hospital for treatment.
- (d) Commercial establishments possessing such animals for the purpose of sale or display.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)
- (e) (EDITOR’S NOTE: Former subsections (e) was repealed by Ordinance 1870-13, passed September 12, 2013. See Chapter 508 for current regulations.)

**507.04 EXEMPTIONS.**

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the transportation of such animals through this City, when such transporter has taken adequate safeguards to protect the public and has notified the local law enforcement agency of the proposed route of transportation and time thereof. (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.05 NOTICE OF KEEPING DANGEROUS ANIMALS.**

Upon the written complaint of any person that a person owns or is keeping or harboring a dangerous animal in violation of this chapter in the City, the Community Services Officer or a law enforcement officer shall forthwith cause the matter to be investigated; and if after investigation the facts indicate that such person named in the complaint is in fact the owner or is keeping or harboring any such dangerous animal in the City, he shall forthwith send written notice to such person requiring such person to safely remove such animal from the City within five (5) days of the date of such notice. Notice as herein provided shall not be required where such dangerous animal has previously caused serious physical harm or death to any person or has escaped and is at large in which case the Community Services Officer shall cause such animal to be immediately seized and impounded, according to the provisions of Section 507.06 or killed if seizure and impoundment are not possible without risk of serious physical harm or death to any person. (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.06 SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDING OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS.**

(a) The Community Services Officer or a law enforcement officer shall forthwith cause to be seized and impounded any dangerous animal, where the person owning, keeping or harboring such animal has failed to comply with the notice sent pursuant to Section 507.05. Upon seizure and impoundment, such animal shall be delivered to a place of confinement which may be with any organization which is authorized by law to accept, own, keep or harbor such animals.

(b) If, during the course of seizing and impounding any such animal, the animal poses a risk of serious physical harm or death to any person, such person or persons authorized by the Community Services Officer may render such animal immobile by means of tranquilizers or other safe drugs; or if it is not safely possible, then such animal may be killed. (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.07 PERMIT REQUIRED.**

(a) No person under Section 507.03 owning, harboring or having charge, custody, control or possession of any animal described in Section 507.01, shall allow such animal to remain within the City unless and until he/she has first secured a permit to do so and complies with all terms and conditions of such permit; and, in addition thereto, such animal shall at all times be so confined, controlled and restrained in such manner so the life, limb, or property of any person lawfully entering such premises shall not be endangered.

(b) Failure to obtain a permit when required by subsection (a) hereof after written notification by the Community Services Officer or a law enforcement officer shall be adequate grounds for such officer to impound such animal until a permit is obtained. If no permit is obtained within ten (10) days, such animal will be subject to summary destruction. (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.08 ISSUANCE OF PERMIT.**

Except as hereinafter provided, no person under Section 507.03 shall have, keep, maintain, or have in his/her possession or under his/her control within the City any animal described in Section 507.01 without first applying to and receiving a permit from the Police Lieutenant; provided, no permit shall be granted except with such conditions attached as shall, in the opinion of the person or agency approving such permit, reasonably ensure the public health, safety and general welfare, and in any event no permit shall be granted for any animal at any particular location except upon an explicit finding by the Police Lieutenant that the issuance thereof will not be contrary to the public health, safety and general welfare.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.09 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT.**

An application for any permit required pursuant to this chapter shall be made to the City in writing and upon a form furnished by the City. Such application shall be verified by the person who desired to have, keep, maintain or having in his/her possession or under his/her control, in the City, the animal for which a permit is required, and shall set forth the following:

- (a) Name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
  - (b) The applicant's interest in such animal.
  - (c) The proposed location, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of such location, and of the lessee, if any.
  - (d) The number and general description of all animals for which the permit is sought.
  - (e) Any information known to the applicant concerning vicious or dangerous propensities of all such animals.
  - (f) The housing arrangements for all such animals with particular details as to safety or structure, locks, fencing, etc.
  - (g) Safety precautions proposed to be taken.
  - (h) Noises or odors anticipated in the keeping of such animals.
  - (i) Prior history of incidents involving the public health or safety involving any of such animals.
  - (j) Proof of insurance to cover those who may be injured or killed by such animal.
  - (k) A statement, signed by the applicant, indemnifying the City and its agents and employees for any and all injuries that may result from such animal.
  - (l) Any additional information required by the Community Services Officer at the time of filing such applications or thereafter.
- (Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.10 PERMIT FEE.**

The total fee shall not exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) for any one permit application and is nonrefundable. Such fee shall be payable to the City at the time of filing the permit application. Accretions by natural birth shall not require additional permits during the period of a valid permit.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.11 TEMPORARY PERMITS; POWERS OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.**

The Police Lieutenant may, following the application for a permit and pending a final disposition of the same, grant a temporary permit for the maintenance within the City of any such animal upon such conditions as he/she shall, in his/her sole discretion, require when, in his/her opinion, there is no reasonable doubt as to the consistency thereof with the public health, safety and general welfare, but no such animal shall be otherwise kept or maintained within this City or permitted to occupy any premises within this City except while such a regular or temporary permit is in full force and effect; provided, however, that any law enforcement officer or the Community Services Officer, shall take possession of any animal described under Section 507.01 for which a permit has not been issued and keep the same until the proper permit has been secured by the owner or keeper thereof and shall release the same to the owner or keeper when all fees and costs have been paid and all laws and permit conditions complied with.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.12 TERM AND RENEWAL OF PERMITS.**

No permit required by this chapter shall be granted for a period in excess of one year. An application for renewal of any permit shall be made not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration thereof, and shall be accompanied by the same fee as required upon making the original application.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.13 INSPECTION FOR RENEWAL.**

Prior to the annual renewal of any permit issued hereunder and at least once not more than six (6) months after the issuance of any such permit or after its renewal, the Community Services Officer or his designated representative shall inspect the premises subject to such permit to determine whether the person to whom it has been issued is continuing to comply with all of the conditions specified in this chapter. If the Community Services Officer determines during any such inspection that any of the conditions therein specified are being violated, he/she will recommend denial of a renewal of any such permit, or he/she shall recommend revocation of such permit in the event that such violation is not corrected within such period of time as he/she shall direct.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.14 REVOCATION OF PERMITS.**

The City, upon recommendation of the Community Services Officer may, for good cause, revoke any permit or modify any terms or provisions thereof and may, in the event it is reasonably necessary to protect against an immediate threat or danger to the public health or safety, suspend any permit or portion thereof without hearing, for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall be sufficient grounds for revocation.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.15 COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.**

(a) Commercial establishments possessing such animals for the purpose of sale or display may replace the same with others of the same kind, but the number of each shall not be in excess of the number thereof allowed by the terms of such permit. Such establishments may, at the discretion of the Police Lieutenant, be granted a permit for those such numbers of each kind of animal as does not exceed the maximum number such establishment estimates will be maintained by it in this City at any one time during the period of the permit. Such permit shall require the immediate notification of the Community Services Officer upon the acquisition of any animal having prior history of any incident involving the public health or safety, or resulting in any bodily injury or property damage.

(b) Upon the sale of any dangerous animal, such commercial establishment shall immediately send notification of such sale along with name and address of the buyer, the method of transporting the animal, the path of travel of such transportation, and the destination to the Community Services Officer.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.16 ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.**

(a) Any person aggrieved by or dissatisfied with any of the following decisions, rulings, actions or findings may, within ten (10) days thereafter, file a written notice or statement of appeal from such decisions, ruling, action or finding to the Chief of Police for an administrative hearing thereon:

- (1) The determination that an animal is dangerous under Sections 507.01 and 507.02;
- (2) The denial of a permit under Section 507.08;
- (3) The denial of a renewal of a previously issued permit under Section 507.04;
- (4) The revocation of a previously issued permit under Section 507.15; and
- (5) The temporary suspension of any permit or portion thereof under Section 507.14.

(b) The filing of an appeal under this section shall not stay any action taken pursuant to this chapter.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.17 APPEAL TO COMMON PLEAS COURT.**

Any aggrieved party may appeal the decision and findings of the Police Chief pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code to the Common Pleas Court. However, the filing of an appeal under this section shall not stay any action taken pursuant to this chapter.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.18 COSTS TO BE PAID BY RESPONSIBLE PERSONS.**

Any reasonable costs incurred by the Community Services Officer in seizing, impounding, confining, or disposing of any dangerous animal, or vicious dog pursuant to the provisions of Sections 507.05, 507.06, 507.07 and 507.11, shall be charged against the owner, keeper or harbinger of such animal and shall be collected by the Clerk of Courts.  
(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.19 REPORT OF ESCAPE OF DANGEROUS ANIMAL OR  
VICIOUS DOG. (REPEALED)**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Section 507.19 was repealed by Ordinance 1870-13, passed September 12, 2013. See Chapter 508 for current regulations.)

**507.20 SEVERABILITY.**

If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase in this chapter or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this chapter or any part thereof.

(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94.)

**507.99 PENALTY.**

Any person violating or permitting the violation of any provision of this chapter shall upon conviction in the Moraine Mayor's Court of a minor misdemeanor be fined a sum not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). In addition, the Court shall order the registration of and permit for the subject dangerous animal revoked and the dangerous animal removed from the City. Should the defendant refuse to remove the animal from the City, the Mayor's Court shall find the defendant owner in contempt and order the immediate confiscation and impoundment of the animal. Each day that violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense. In addition to the foregoing penalties, any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall pay all expenses, including shelter, food, handling, veterinary care and testimony necessitated by the enforcement of such sections.

(Ord. 1090-94. Passed 10-27-94; Ord. 1870-13. Passed 9-12-13.)



**CHAPTER 508**  
**Dangerous, Nuisance and Vicious Dogs**

<b>508.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>508.04</b>	<b>Judicial determination of dog as a nuisance dog, dangerous dog or vicious dog.</b>
<b>508.02</b>	<b>Transfer of ownership.</b>	<b>508.05</b>	<b>Restriction of ownership.</b>
<b>508.03</b>	<b>Confinement or restraint of dog; liability insurance; debarking or surgically silencing dog; obtain dangerous dog registration; notify the Police Department.</b>	<b>508.06</b>	<b>Severability.</b>
		<b>508.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>

**CROSS REFERENCES**

Dangerous animals - see GEN. OFF. Ch. 507

**508.01 DEFINITIONS.**

- (a) As used in this Chapter:
- (1) A. "Dangerous dog" means a dog that, without provocation, and subject to division (a)(1)B of this section, has done any of the following:
    1. Caused injury, other than killing or serious injury, to any person;
    2. Killed another dog;
    3. Been the subject of a third or subsequent violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 or of Section 955.22(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, or any combination thereof,
  - B. "Dangerous dog" does not include a police dog that has caused injury, other than killing or serious injury, to any person or has killed another dog while the police dog is being used to assist one or more law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties.
  - (2) "Menacing fashion" means that a dog would cause any person being chased or approached to reasonably believe that the dog will cause physical injury to that person.
  - (3) A. Subject to division (a)(3)B of this section, "nuisance dog" means a dog that without provocation and while off the premises of its owner, keeper, or harbinger has chased or approached a person in either a menacing fashion or an apparent attitude of attack or has attempted to bite or otherwise endanger any person.

- B. "Nuisance dog" does not include a police dog that while being used to assist one or more law enforcement officers in the performance of official duties has chased or approached a person in either a menacing fashion or an apparent attitude of attack or has attempted to bite or otherwise endanger any person.
- (4) "Police dog" means a dog that has been trained, and may be used, to assist one or more law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties.
- (5) "Serious injury" means any of the following:
  - A. Any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of death;
  - B. Any physical harm that involves a permanent incapacity, whether partial or total, or a temporary, substantial incapacity;
  - C. Any physical harm that involves a permanent disfigurement or a temporary, serious disfigurement;
  - D. Any physical harm that involves acute pain of a duration that results in substantial suffering or any degree of prolonged or intractable pain.
- (6) A. "Vicious dog" means a dog that, without provocation and subject to division (a)(6)B of this section, has killed or caused serious injury to any person.
  - B. "Vicious dog" does not include either of the following:
    - 1. A police dog that has killed or caused serious injury to any person while the police dog is being used to assist one or more law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties;
    - 2. A dog that has killed or caused serious injury to any person while a person was committing or attempting to commit a trespass or other criminal offense on the property of the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog.
- (7) "Without provocation" means that a dog was not teased, tormented, or abused by a person, or that the dog was not coming to the aid or the defense of a person who was not engaged in illegal or criminal activity and who was not using the dog as a means of carrying out such activity.  
(Ord. 1870-13. Passed 9-12-13.)

#### **508.02 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.**

(a) Upon the transfer of ownership of any dog, the seller of the dog shall comply with the notice and registration requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 955.11 and give the buyer a transfer of ownership certificate that shall be signed by the seller and contain the registration number of the dog, the name of the seller, and a brief description of the dog.

(b) Prior to the transfer of ownership or possession of any dog, upon the buyer's or other transferee's request, the seller or other transferor of the dog shall give to the person a written notice relative to the behavior and propensities of the dog.

(c) Within ten days after the transfer of ownership or possession of any dog, if the seller or other transferor of the dog has knowledge that the dog is a dangerous dog, the seller or other transferor shall give to the buyer or other transferee, the Montgomery County board of health, the Montgomery County dog warden and the Moraine Police Department, a completed copy of a written form on which the seller shall furnish the following information:

- (1) The name and address of the buyer or other transferee of the dog;
- (2) The age, sex, color, breed, and current registration number of the dog.

In addition, the seller shall answer the following questions, which shall be specifically stated on the form as follows:

"Has the dog ever chased or attempted to attack or bite a person? If yes, describe the incident(s) in which the behavior occurred."

"Has the dog ever bitten a person? If yes, describe the incident(s) in which the behavior occurred."

"Has the dog ever seriously injured or killed a person? If yes, describe the incident(s) in which the behavior occurred."

The information shall be provided on forms available from the Montgomery County dog warden.

(d) No seller or other transferor of a dog shall fail to comply with the applicable requirements of divisions (a) to (c) of this section.  
(Ord. 1870-13. Passed 9-12-13.)

**508.03 CONFINEMENT OR RESTRAINT OF DOG; LIABILITY INSURANCE; DEBARKING OR SURGICALLY SILENCING DOG; OBTAIN DANGEROUS DOG REGISTRATION; NOTIFY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

(a) No owner, keeper, or harbinger of any female dog shall permit it to go beyond the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger at any time the dog is in heat unless the dog is properly in leash.

(b) Except when a dog is lawfully engaged in hunting and accompanied by the owner, keeper, harbinger, or handler of the dog, no owner, keeper, or harbinger of any dog shall fail at any time to do either of the following:

- (1) Keep the dog physically confined or restrained upon the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger by a leash, tether, adequate fence, supervision, or secure enclosure to prevent escape;
- (2) Keep the dog under the reasonable control of some person.

(c) Except when a dangerous dog is lawfully engaged in hunting or training for the purpose of hunting and is accompanied by the owner, keeper, harbinger, or handler of the dog, no owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dangerous dog shall fail to do either of the following:

- (1) While that dog is on the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger, securely confine it at all times in a locked pen that has a top, locked fenced yard, or other locked enclosure that has a top;

- (2) While that dog is off the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger, keep that dog on a chain-link leash or tether that is not more than six feet in length and additionally do at least one of the following:
  - A. Keep that dog in a locked pen that has a top, locked fenced yard, or other locked enclosure that has a top;
  - B. Have the leash or tether controlled by a person who is of suitable age and discretion or securely attach, tie, or affix the leash or tether to the ground or a stationary object or fixture so that the dog is adequately restrained and station such a person in close enough proximity to that dog so as to prevent it from causing injury to any person;
  - C. Muzzle that dog.
- (d) No person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of division (b) of this Section 508.03 or of Section 955.22(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, or any combination thereof, involving the same dog and no owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dangerous dog shall fail to do the following:
  - (1) Obtain liability insurance with an insurer authorized to write liability insurance in this state providing coverage in each occurrence because of damage or bodily injury to or death of a person caused by the dangerous dog if so ordered by a court and provide proof of that liability insurance upon request to any law enforcement officer, county dog warden, or public health official charged with enforcing this section;
  - (2) Obtain a dangerous dog registration certificate from the county auditor pursuant to division (I) of Ohio Revised Code Section 955.22, affix a tag that identifies the dog as a dangerous dog to the dog's collar, and ensure that the dog wears the collar and tag at all times;
  - (3) Notify the local dog warden and the Moraine Police Department immediately if any of the following occurs:
    - A. The dog is loose or unconfined.
    - B. The dog bites a person, unless the dog is on the property of the owner of the dog, and the person who is bitten is unlawfully trespassing or committing a criminal act within the boundaries of that property.
    - C. The dog attacks another animal while the dog is off the property of the owner of the dog.
  - (4) If the dog is sold, given to another person, or dies, notify the Moraine Police Department within ten days of the sale, transfer, or death.
- (e) No person shall do any of the following:
  - (1) Debark or surgically silence a dog that the person knows or has reason to believe is a dangerous dog;
  - (2) Possess a dangerous dog if the person knows or has reason to believe that the dog has been debarked or surgically silenced;
  - (3) Falsely attest on a waiver form provided by the veterinarian under division (G) of Ohio Revised Code Section 955.22 that the person's dog is not a dangerous dog or otherwise provide false information on that written waiver form.

(Ord. 1870-13. Passed 9-12-13.)

**508.04 JUDICIAL DETERMINATION OF DOG AS A NUISANCE DOG,  
DANGEROUS DOG OR VICIOUS DOG.**

(a) Any Moraine official or law enforcement officer who is authorized to enforce this chapter and has reasonable cause to believe that a dog in the City of Moraine is a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog, the person shall notify the owner, keeper, or harbinger of that dog, by certified mail or in person, of both of the following:

- (1) That the person has designated the dog a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog, as applicable;
- (2) That the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog may request a hearing regarding the designation in accordance with this section. The notice shall include instructions for filing a request for a hearing in the Kettering Municipal Court.

(b) If the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog disagrees with the designation of the dog as a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog, as applicable, the owner, keeper, or harbinger, not later than ten days after receiving notification of the designation, may request a hearing regarding the determination. The request for a hearing shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Kettering Municipal Court. At the hearing, the person who designated the dog as a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog has the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that the dog is a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog.

The owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog or the person who designated the dog as a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog may appeal the court's final determination as in any other case filed in that court.

(c) A court, upon motion of an owner, keeper, or harbinger or an attorney representing the owner, keeper, or harbinger, may order that the dog designated as a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog be held in the possession of the owner, keeper, or harbinger until the court makes a final determination under this section or during the pendency of an appeal, as applicable. Until the court makes a final determination and during the pendency of any appeal, the dog shall be confined or restrained in accordance with the provisions of Section 508.03(c) that apply to dangerous dogs regardless of whether the dog has been designated as a vicious dog or a nuisance dog rather than a dangerous dog. The owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog shall not be required to comply with any other requirements established in Chapter 508 that concern a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog, as applicable, until the court makes a final determination and during the pendency of any appeal.

(d) If a dog is finally determined under this section, or on appeal as described in this section, to be a vicious dog, Sections 508.02 and 508.03 apply with respect to the dog and the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog as if the dog were a dangerous dog, and the court shall issue an order that specifies that those provisions apply with respect to the dog and the owner, keeper, or harbinger in that manner. As part of the order, the court shall require the owner, keeper, or harbinger to obtain the liability insurance required under division (d)(1) of Section 508.03 in an amount described in division (H)(2) of Section 955.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.  
(Ord. 1870-13. Passed 9-12-13.)

**508.05 RESTRICTION ON OWNERSHIP.**

(a) No person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence committed on or after the effective date of this section or a felony violation of any provision of Chapter 959, 2923, or 2925 of the Ohio Revised Code committed on or after May 22, 2012 shall knowingly own, possess, have custody of, or reside in a residence with either of the following for a period of three years commencing either upon the date of release of the person from any period of incarceration imposed for the offense or violation or, if the person is not incarcerated for the offense or violation, upon the date of the person's final release from the other sanctions imposed for the offense or violation:

- (1) An unspayed or unneutered dog older than twelve weeks of age;
- (2) Any dog that has been determined to be a dangerous dog under this Chapter 508 or Chapter 955 of the Ohio Revised Code.

(b) A person described in division (a) of this section shall microchip for permanent identification any dog owned, possessed by, or in the custody of the person.

- (c)
- (1) Division (a) of this section does not apply to any person who is confined in a correctional institution of the department of rehabilitation and correction.
  - (2) Division (a) of this section does not apply to any person with respect to any dog that the person owned, possessed, had custody of, or resided in a residence with prior to May 22, 2012.  
(Ord. 1870-13. Passed 9-12-13.)

**508.06 SEVERABILITY.**

If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase in this chapter or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this chapter or any part thereof.  
(Ord. 1870-13. Passed 9-12-13.)

**508.99 PENALTY.**

- (a)
- (1) Whoever violates division (d) of Section 508.02 because of a failure to comply with division (a) of that section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
  - (2) Whoever violates division (d) of Section 508.02 because of a failure to comply with division (b) or (c) of that section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense and of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on each subsequent offense.
- (b)
- (1) Whoever violates division (a) of Section 508.03 or commits a violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 that involves a dog that is not a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) on a first offense, and on each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) or more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and may be imprisoned for not more than thirty days.

- (2) In addition to the penalties prescribed in division (a)(2) of this section, if the offender is guilty of a violation of division (a) of Section 508.03 or a violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 that involves a dog that is not a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog, the court may order the offender to personally supervise the dog that the offender owns, keeps, or harbors, to cause that dog to complete dog obedience training, or to do both.
- (c) (1) Whoever commits a violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 that involves a nuisance dog is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on the first offense and of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on each subsequent offense involving the same dog. Upon a person being convicted of or pleading guilty to a third violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 or division (C) of Ohio Revised Code Section 955.22, or any combination thereof, involving the same dog, the court shall require the offender to register the involved dog as a dangerous dog.
- (2) In addition to the penalties prescribed in division (c)(1) of this section, if a violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 involves a nuisance dog, the court may order the offender to personally supervise the nuisance dog that the offender owns, keeps, or harbors, to cause that dog to complete dog obedience training, or to do both.
- (d) (1) Whoever commits a violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 that involves a dangerous dog or a violation of division (c) of that section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on a first offense and of a misdemeanor of the third degree on each subsequent offense. Additionally, the court may order the offender to personally supervise the dangerous dog that the offender owns, keeps, or harbors, to cause that dog to complete dog obedience training, or to do both, and the court may order the offender to obtain liability insurance pursuant to division (d) of Section 508.03 or division (E) of Section 955.22 of the Ohio Revised Code. The court, in the alternative, may order the dangerous dog to be humanely destroyed by a licensed veterinarian, the county dog warden, or the county humane society at the owner's expense.
- (2) With respect to a violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 or division (C) of Section 955.22 of the Ohio Revised Code that involves a dangerous dog, until the court makes a final determination and during the pendency of any appeal of a violation of that division and at the request of an authorized official of the City of Moraine or law enforcement officer, the dog may be confined or restrained in accordance with division (c) of Section 508.03 or division (D) of Section 955.22 of the Ohio Revised Code or at the county dog pound at the owner's expense.
- (e) (1) Whoever commits a violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 that involves a vicious dog is guilty of one of the following:

- A. A misdemeanor of the first degree if the dog causes death or serious injury to a person. Additionally, the court may order the vicious dog to be humanely destroyed by a licensed veterinarian, the county dog warden, or the county humane society at the owner's expense.
- (2) If the court does not order the vicious dog to be destroyed under division (e)(1)A of this section, the court shall issue an order that specifies that division (c) of Section 508.02 and divisions (c) to (e) of Section 508.03 apply with respect to the dog and the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog as if the dog were a dangerous dog and that Section 508.05 applies with respect to the dog as if it were a dangerous dog. As part of the order, the court shall order the offender to obtain the liability insurance required under division (d)(1) of Section 508.03 in an amount, exclusive of interest and costs, that equals or exceeds one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars. Until the court makes a final determination and during the pendency of any appeal of a violation of division (b) of Section 508.03 and at the request of an authorized official of the City of Moraine or law enforcement officer, the dog may be confined or restrained in accordance with the provisions described in division (c) of Section 508.03 or at the county dog pound at the owner's expense.
- (f) Whoever violates division (d)(2) of Section 508.03 is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (g) Whoever violates any provision of Chapter 508 for which a penalty is not otherwise specified is is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate offense.
- (h) Whoever violates division (d)(1), (3), or (4) of Section 508.03 is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (i) Whoever violates division (a) or (b) of Section 508.05 is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(Ord. 1870-13. Passed 9-12-13.)



**CHAPTER 509**  
**Disorderly Conduct and Peace Disturbance**

<b>509.01</b>	<b>Riot.</b>	<b>509.08</b>	<b>Riot control; authority of Mayor.</b>
<b>509.02</b>	<b>Failure to disperse.</b>	<b>509.09</b>	<b>Minor's curfew.</b>
<b>509.03</b>	<b>Disorderly conduct; intoxication.</b>	<b>509.10</b>	<b>Disturbing the peace.</b>
<b>509.04</b>	<b>Disturbing a lawful meeting.</b>	<b>509.11</b>	<b>Prowling prohibited.</b>
<b>509.05</b>	<b>Misconduct at an emergency.</b>	<b>509.12</b>	<b>Obstruction of use of public property.</b>
<b>509.06</b>	<b>Inducing panic.</b>	<b>509.13</b>	<b>Solicitation.</b>
<b>509.07</b>	<b>Making false alarms.</b>	<b>509.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Use of force to suppress riot - see Ohio R.C. 2917.05  
 Cordoning off riot areas, prohibiting sales of firearms and explosives - see Ohio R.C. 3761.16  
 Emergency suspension of permits and sales by Director of Liquor Control - see Ohio R.C 4301.251  
 Criminal trespass - see GEN. OFF. 541.05

**509.01 RIOT.**

(a) No person shall participate with four or more others in a course of disorderly conduct in violation of Section 509.03:

- (1) With purpose to commit or facilitate the commission of a misdemeanor, other than disorderly conduct;
- (2) With purpose to intimidate a public official or employee into taking or refraining from official action, or with purpose to hinder, impede or obstruct a function of government;
- (3) With purpose to hinder, impede or obstruct the orderly process of administration or instruction at an educational institution, or to interfere with or disrupt lawful activities carried on at such institution.

(b) No person shall participate with four or more others with purpose to do an act with unlawful force or violence, even though such act might otherwise be lawful.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of riot, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2917.03)

**509.02 FAILURE TO DISPERSE.**

(a) Where five or more persons are participating in a course of disorderly conduct in violation of Section 509.03, and there are other persons in the vicinity whose presence creates the likelihood of physical harm to persons or property or of serious public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, a law enforcement officer or other public official may order the participants and such other persons to disperse. No person shall knowingly fail to obey such order.

(b) Nothing in this section requires persons to disperse who are peaceably assembled for a lawful purpose.

- (c)
- (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of failure to disperse.
  - (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(3) hereof, failure to disperse is a minor misdemeanor.
  - (3) Failure to disperse is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree if the failure to obey the order described in subsection (a) hereof, creates the likelihood of physical harm to persons or is committed at the scene of a fire, accident, disaster, riot, or emergency of any kind. (ORC 2917.04)

**509.03 DISORDERLY CONDUCT; INTOXICATION.**

(a) No person shall recklessly cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to another by doing any of the following:

- (1) Engaging in fighting, in threatening harm to persons or property, or in violent or turbulent behavior;
- (2) Making unreasonable noise or offensively coarse utterance, gesture or display, or communicating unwarranted and grossly abusive language to any person, which by its very utterance or usage inflicts injury or tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace;
- (3) Insulting, taunting or challenging another, under circumstances in which such conduct is likely to provoke a violent response;
- (4) Hindering or preventing the movement of persons on a public street, road, highway or right of way, or to, from, within or upon public or private property, so as to interfere with the rights of others, and by any act which serves no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender;
- (5) Creating a condition which is physically offensive to persons or which presents a risk of physical harm to persons or property, by any act which serves no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender.

(b) No person, while voluntarily intoxicated shall do either of the following:

- (1) In a public place or in the presence of two or more persons, engage in conduct likely to be offensive or to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to persons of ordinary sensibilities, which conduct the offender, if he were not intoxicated, should know is likely to have such effect on others;
- (2) Engage in conduct or create a condition which presents a risk of physical harm to himself or another, or to the property of another.

(c) Violation of any statute or ordinance of which an element is operating a motor vehicle, locomotive, watercraft, aircraft or other vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any drug of abuse, is not a violation of subsection (b) hereof.

(d) If a person appears to an ordinary observer to be intoxicated, it is probable cause to believe that person is voluntarily intoxicated for purposes of subsection (b) hereof.

- (e)
- (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of disorderly conduct.
  - (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (e)(3), disorderly conduct is a minor misdemeanor.
  - (3) Disorderly conduct is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree if any of the following applies:
    - A. The offender persists in disorderly conduct after reasonable warning or request to desist.
    - B. The offense is committed in the vicinity of a school or in a school safety zone.
    - C. The offense is committed in the presence of any law enforcement officer, firefighter, rescuer, medical person, emergency medical services person, or other authorized person who is engaged in the person's duties at the scene of a fire, accident, disaster, riot or emergency of any kind.
    - D. The offense is committed in the presence of any emergency facility person who is engaged in the person's duties in an emergency facility.
- (f) As used in this section:
- (1) "Emergency medical services person" is the singular of "emergency medical services personnel" as defined in Ohio R.C. 2133.21.
  - (2) "Emergency facility person" is the singular of "emergency facility personnel" as defined in Ohio R.C. 2909.04.
  - (3) "Emergency facility" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2909.04.
  - (4) "Committed in the vicinity of a school" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2925.01. (ORC 2917.11)

#### **509.04 DISTURBING A LAWFUL MEETING.**

(a) No person, with purpose to prevent or disrupt a lawful meeting, procession or gathering, shall do either of the following:

- (1) Do any act which obstructs or interferes with the due conduct of such meeting, procession or gathering;
- (2) Make any utterance, gesture or display which outrages the sensibilities of the group.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of disturbing a lawful meeting, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 2917.12)

#### **509.05 MISCONDUCT AT AN EMERGENCY.**

(a) No person shall knowingly do any of the following:

- (1) Hamper the lawful operations of any law enforcement officer, firefighter, rescuer, medical person, emergency medical services person, or other authorized person, engaged in the person's duties at the scene of a fire, accident, disaster, riot, or emergency of any kind;
- (2) Hamper the lawful activities of any emergency facility person who is engaged in the person's duties in an emergency facility;
- (3) Fail to obey the lawful order of any law enforcement officer engaged in the law enforcement officer's duties at the scene of or in connection with a fire, accident, disaster, riot, or emergency of any kind.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit access or deny information to any news media representative in the lawful exercise of the news media representative's duties.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of misconduct at an emergency. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, misconduct at an emergency is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If a violation of this section creates a risk of physical harm to persons or property, misconduct at an emergency is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(d) As used in this section:

- (1) "Emergency medical services person" is the singular of "emergency medical services personnel" as defined in Ohio R.C. 2133.21.
- (2) "Emergency facility person" is the singular of "emergency facility personnel" as defined in Ohio R.C. 2909.04.
- (3) "Emergency facility" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2909.04. (ORC 2917.13)

#### **509.06 INDUCING PANIC.**

(a) No person shall cause the evacuation of any public place, or otherwise cause serious public inconvenience or alarm, by doing any of the following:

- (1) Initiating or circulating a report or warning of an alleged or impending fire, explosion, crime or other catastrophe, knowing that such report or warning is false;
- (2) Threatening to commit any offense of violence;
- (3) Committing any offense, with reckless disregard of the likelihood that its commission will cause serious public inconvenience or alarm.

(b) Division (a) hereof does not apply to any person conducting an authorized fire or emergency drill.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of inducing panic, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If inducing panic results in physical harm to any person, economic harm of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, if the public place involved in a violation of this section is a school or an institution of higher education, or if the violation pertains to a purported, threatened or actual use of a weapon of mass destruction, inducing panic is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(d) Any act that is a violation of this section and any other section of the Codified Ordinances may be prosecuted under this section, the other section, or both sections.

(e) As used in this section:

- (1) "Economic harm" means any of the following:
  - A. All direct, incidental, and consequential pecuniary harm suffered by a victim as a result of criminal conduct. "Economic harm" as described in this division includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
    1. All wages, salaries, or other compensation lost as a result of the criminal conduct;
    2. The cost of all wages, salaries, or other compensation paid to employees for time those employees are prevented from working as a result of the criminal conduct;
    3. The overhead costs incurred for the time that a business is shut down as a result of the criminal conduct;
    4. The loss of value to tangible or intangible property that was damaged as a result of the criminal conduct.

- B. All costs incurred by the Municipality as a result of, or in making any response to, the criminal conduct that constituted the violation of this section or Section 509.07, including, but not limited to, all costs so incurred by any law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel of the state or the political subdivision.
- (2) “School” means any school operated by a board of education or any school for which the state board of education prescribes minimum standards under Ohio R.C. 3301.07, whether or not any instruction, extracurricular activities, or training provided by the school is being conducted at the time a violation of this section is committed.
- (3) “Weapon of mass destruction” means any of the following:
  - A. Any weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious physical harm through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals, or their precursors;
  - B. Any weapon involving a disease organism or biological agent;
  - C. Any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life;
  - D. Any of the following, except to the extent that the item or device in question is expressly excepted from the definition of “destructive device” pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(4) and regulations issued under that section:
    - 1. Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or similar device;
    - 2. Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any item or device into any item or device described in division (e)(3)D.1. of this section and from which an item or device described in that division may be readily assembled.
- (4) “Biological agent” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2917.33.
- (5) “Emergency medical services personnel” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2133.21.
- (6) “Institution of higher education” means any of the following:
  - A. A state university or college as defined in Ohio R.C. 3345.12(A)(1), community college, state community college, university branch, or technical college;
  - B. A private, nonprofit college, university or other post-secondary institution located in this State that possesses a certificate of authorization issued by the Ohio Board of Regents pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 1713.
  - C. A post-secondary institution with a certificate of registration issued by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3332. (ORC 2917.31)

#### **509.07 MAKING FALSE ALARMS.**

- (a) No person shall do any of the following:
  - (1) Initiate or circulate a report or warning of an alleged or impending fire, explosion, crime or other catastrophe, knowing that the report or warning is false and likely to cause public inconvenience or alarm;

- (2) Knowingly cause a false alarm of fire or other emergency to be transmitted to or within any organization, public or private, for dealing with emergencies involving a risk of physical harm to persons or property;
- (3) Report to any law enforcement agency an alleged offense or other incident within its concern, knowing that such offense did not occur.

(b) This section does not apply to any person conducting an authorized fire or emergency drill.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of making false alarms, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If a violation of this section results in economic harm of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, or if a violation of this section pertains to a purported, threatened, or actual use of a weapon of mass destruction, making false alarms is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(d) Any act that is a violation of this section and any other section of the Codified Ordinances may be prosecuted under this section, the other section, or both sections.

(e) As used in this section, “economic harm” and “weapon of mass destruction” have the same meanings as in Section 509.06. (ORC 2917.32)

#### **509.08 RIOT CONTROL; AUTHORITY OF MAYOR.**

(a) The Mayor may, in case of riot or insurrection, or when there is a clear and present danger of a riot or insurrection, proclaim in writing a state of emergency.

(b) As part of such proclamation or by subsequent written order after such proclamation is issued, the Mayor may, in his discretion as he deems necessary to the public safety:

- (1) Delineate the boundaries of any area threatened by riot or insurrection, and restrict or prohibit the movement of persons into, from or within such area.
- (2) Establish a curfew within such area, and prohibit persons from being out of doors during such curfew.
- (3) Prohibit the sale, offering for sale, dispensing and transportation of firearms and other deadly weapons, ammunition, dynamite and other dangerous explosives, incendiary devices and any necessary ingredient thereof.
- (4) Issue reasonable regulations to suppress such riot or insurrection, or to protect persons or property from harm by reasons of such riot or insurrection.

(c) When the danger from riot or insurrection is past, the Mayor shall forthwith make proclamation that the emergency has ended and any proclamation, order or regulation issued pursuant to this section shall then become void.

(d) The powers conferred by this section are in addition to any other power which may be conferred by law and nothing in this section shall be construed to modify or limit such authority, power, duties and responsibilities of any officer or public official as may be provided by law. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the suspension of the privilege to a writ of habeas corpus.

(e) Whoever violates any proclamations or written orders of the Mayor is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

**509.09 MINOR'S CURFEW.**

(a) Loitering of Minors Prohibited. No minor under the age of eighteen years shall loiter, idle, wander, stroll or play in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, or vacant lots, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day. However, the provisions of this section do not apply to a minor accompanied by his or her parent, guardian, or other adult person having the care and custody of the minor, or where the minor is upon an emergency errand or legitimate business directed by his or her parent, guardian, or other adult person having the care and custody of the minor. Each violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a separate offense.

(b) Responsibility of Parents. No parent, guardian or other adult person having the care and custody of a minor under the age of eighteen years shall knowingly permit such minor to violate or be in violation of subsection (a) hereof. Each violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a separate offense.

(c) Penalty. If the Juvenile Court finds that any minor under the age of eighteen years has violated the provisions of subsection (a) hereof, it shall dispose of such case in the manner provided by the Juvenile Court Code of Ohio for disposing of cases of delinquent children and may make such order relative to such minor as the Ohio statutes permit in the case of delinquent children. Any parent, guardian or other adult person having the care and custody of a minor under the age of eighteen years and/or any minor under eighteen years of age who violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**509.10 DISTURBING THE PEACE.**

(a) No person shall disturb the good order and quiet of the City by clamors and noises, by intoxication, drunkenness, fighting, committing assault, assault and battery, using obscene or profane language to the annoyance of the citizens, or otherwise violate the public peace by indecent and disorderly conduct, or by lewd and lascivious behavior.

(b) No person shall make, continue, cause or commit to be made any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise, or any noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others within the City.

(c) The following acts among others are declared to be loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises in violation of this section, but this enumeration shall not be deemed exclusive:

- (1) Horns and signaling devices. The sounding of any horn or signaling device on any motor vehicle, motorcycle or other vehicle on any street or public place, except as a danger warning; the creation by means of any such signaling device of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound; and the sounding of any such device for an unnecessary and unreasonable period of time. The use of any signaling device except one operated by hand or electricity; the use of any horn, whistle or other device operated by engine exhaust; and the use of any such signaling device when traffic is held up for any reason.

- (2) Radios and phonographs. The using, operating or permitting to be used or operated of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing the sound in such a manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants, or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing for the persons which are in the room, vehicle or chamber in which such machine or device is operated and who are voluntary listeners thereto. The operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph or device between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of fifty feet from the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima-facie evidence of a violation of this section.
- (3) Loud speakers and amplifiers for advertising. The using, operating or permitting to be played, used or operated of any radio, receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, loud speaker, sound amplifier or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound which is cast upon public streets for the purpose of commercial advertising or attracting the attention of the public to any building or structure, except by special permission of the Mayor or City Manager.
- (4) Yelling and shouting. Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling or singing on the public streets, particularly between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. or at any time or place so as to annoy the quiet, comfort or repose of any persons in any office or any dwelling, hotel or other type residence, or of any persons in the vicinity.
- (5) Animals and birds. The keeping of any animal or bird which by causing long or frequent continued noise disturbs the comfort or repose of persons in the vicinity.
- (6) Steam whistles. The blowing of any locomotive steam whistle or steam whistle attached to any stationary boiler except to give notice of the time to begin or stop work or as a warning of fire or danger, or upon the request of City authorities.
- (7) Exhaust. The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine, motor boat, motor vehicle, except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.
- (8) Defect in vehicle or load. The use of any motor vehicles, motorcycle, or vehicle which is so out of repair, so loaded or used in such a manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noise.
- (9) Loading and unloading. The creation of a loud and excessive noise in connection with the loading or unloading any vehicle or the opening and destruction of bales, boxes, crates and containers.
- (10) Schools, courts, churches and hospitals. The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church or court while the same are in use or adjacent to any hospital, which unreasonably interferes with the workings of such institution, or which disturbs or unduly annoys patients in the hospital, provided conspicuous signs are displayed in such streets indicating that the same is a school, hospital or court street.



- (11) Hawkers and peddlers. The shouting and crying of peddlers, hawkers and vendors which disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.
- (12) Drums. The use of any drum or other instrument or device for the purpose of attracting attention by creation to any performance, show or sale, except with permission of the Chief of Police.
- (13) Metal rails, pillars and columns, transportation thereof. The transportation of rails, pillars or columns of iron, steel or other materials over and along streets and other public places upon carts, drays, cars, trucks or in any other manner or conveyance so loaded as to cause loud noises or so as to disturb the peace and quiet of such streets or other public places.
- (14) Pile drivers and hammers. The operation between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of any pile drivers, steam shovel, pneumatic hammer, derrick, steam or electric hoist or other appliance, the use of which is attended by loud or unusual noise.
- (15) Blowers. The operation of any noise creating blower or power fan or any internal combustion engine, the operation of which causes noise due to the explosion of operating gases or fluids, unless the noise from such blower or fan is muffled and such engine is equipped with a muffler device sufficient to deaden such noise.
- (16) Squealing of tires. The operation of a motor vehicle on a public street or private street or parking lots by causing excessive noise by the squealing of tires, unnecessary blowing of horns, whistles or other devices.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

#### **509.11 PROWLING PROHIBITED.**

(a) For purposes of this section, “prowling” means engaging in any conduct in a stealthy or furtive manner, or wandering or strolling about from place to place without apparent lawful purpose or aim.

(b) No person shall prowl in a place, at a time or in a manner not usual for law-abiding individuals under circumstances which would cause an ordinary, reasonable person to have an immediate concern for the safety of persons or the security of property in the vicinity and, upon request by a police officer, refuse to identify himself and state the reason for his presence.

(c) No person who is prowling in the manner described in subsection (b) hereof shall refuse to leave the vicinity after being requested to do so by a police officer where, although such person has identified himself and stated the reason for his presence as required in subsection (b) hereof, an ordinary, reasonable person would continue to have an immediate concern for the safety of persons or the security of property in the vicinity if such person were allowed to continue prowling in such vicinity.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

#### **509.12 OBSTRUCTION OF USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

(a) No person, whether alone or with others, shall congregate or loiter at any time upon or about any public street, avenue, alley, street setback, park, playground, public school property, public library property, or any private property open to the public, or in front of a dwelling, place of business, place of worship or amusement in the City, if such act is conducted in such a manner as to disrupt, hinder, obstruct or impede the passage of pedestrians or the normal ingress to or egress from adjacent premises.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 439. Passed 8-26-76.)

### **509.13 SOLICITATION.**

(a) Definitions.

- (1) "Solicit" for the purposes of this chapter, shall include, without limitation the spoken word or such other acts or bodily gestures as are conducted in furtherance of the purposes of immediately obtaining money or any other thing of value, where the person being solicited receives nothing of monetary value or an item of little or no monetary value in exchange for a donation, under circumstances where a reasonable person would understand that the transaction is in substance a donation.
- (2) "Passive Solicitation" and "Passive Soliciting" as used in this chapter shall mean the act of passively standing or sitting with a sign or other indicator that a donation of money goods or any other form of gratuity is being sought without any vocal request other than a response to an inquiry by another person and where the person being solicited receives nothing of monetary value or an item of little or no monetary value in exchange for a donation, under circumstances where a reasonable person would understand that the transaction is in substance a donation.
- (3) "Right-of-Way" as used in this chapter shall mean land, property, or the interest therein, usually in the configuration of a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes and including the roadway, shoulders or berm, ditch and slopes extending to the right-of-way limits under the control of the State of Ohio or City of Moraine.

(b) Time of Soliciting.

- (1) No person shall solicit or passively solicit after sunset or before sunrise. The times of sunset and sunrise shall be as published by the U.S. Naval Observatory.
- (2) Whoever violates Section 509.13(b)(1) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(c) Restrictions on Place of Soliciting and Passive Soliciting. No person shall solicit or passively solicit another person in any of the following places:

- (1) At any bus stop;
- (2) In any public transportation vehicle or facility;
- (3) While the person making the solicitation is within a Right-of-Way and the person or persons being solicited are operating, occupying, exiting or entering any vehicle within, the Right-Of-Way;
- (4) While the person making the passive solicitation is within a Right-of-Way and the person or persons being solicited are operating or occupying any vehicle within the Right-Of-Way;
- (5) Within twenty (20) feet of any entrance or exit of any bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or check cashing business, during its business hours or within twenty (20) feet of any automated teller machine during the time it is available for customer use;
- (6) In any recreational facility owned or operated by the City of Moraine;
- (7) On private property, unless the solicitor has permission from the owner or occupant.

- (8) Whoever violates Section 509.13(c)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(d) Manner of Soliciting. No person shall solicit or passively solicit in any of the following manners:

- (1) By coming within three (3) feet of the person being solicited after that person has indicated he/she does not wish to make a donation;
- (2) By blocking the path of a person who attempts to walk or drive away from the solicitor;
- (3) By making unreasonable noise or an offensively coarse utterance, gesture, or display or communicating unwarranted or grossly abusive language, either during the solicitation or following a refusal;
- (4) By any statement, gesture or other communication which a reasonable person in the situation of the person solicited would perceive to be a threat.
- (5) Whoever violates this Section 509.13(d)(1), (2), (3) or (4) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(e) Causing a minor to solicit.

- (1) No parent, guardian or adult person having legal care, custody or control of a minor shall cause, allow, or procure such minor to solicit or passively solicit in or upon any public or private property.
- (2) Whoever violates Section 509.13(e)(1) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(f) Registration.

- (1) No person shall solicit or passively solicit without a registration issued by the Police Chief. Any person who has been issued a registration shall keep a copy of said registration on his/her person at all times while soliciting and shall display it to any law enforcement office upon request. No person whose registration has been revoked shall solicit for a period of two (2) years following the revocation.
- (2) The Police Chief or his designee, shall issue the registration, without fee, to any eligible person who presents him/herself at the City of Moraine Police Department, states his or her true name, presents a photo identification or signs a declaration under penalty of perjury that he or she has no such identification, and permits him/herself to be photographed and fingerprinted.
- (3) A person is ineligible to register if within the past five (5) years, he or she has (1) pleaded guilty or been convicted of two (2) or more violations of Section 509.13 of the Moraine Codified Ordinances; or (2) had a registration revoked under subparagraph (f) below; or (3) had pleaded guilty to or been convicted of two (2) or more offenses under the laws of any jurisdiction which involve aggressive or intimidating behavior while soliciting or making false or misleading representations while soliciting.
- (4) Upon receipt of an application for registration in accordance with (b) above, the Police Chief shall issue a temporary registration valid for ten (10) days and shall determine eligibility for an annual registration before the temporary registration expires. An eligible applicant shall receive a regular registration upon determination of the applicant's eligibility. The regular registration shall expire one (1) year from the date of issuance. Along with the registration, the Police Chief shall give the applicant a copy of this Section 509.13.

- (5) No person shall make a false or misleading representation while applying for registration under this section.
- (6) Upon arrest or citation for any violation of any provision of this Section 509.13, the person undertaking the solicitation shall surrender to the arresting or citing officer any registration issued to such person. That person may then apply to the Police Chief for consecutive thirty (30) day temporary registrations pending adjudication of his/her charges. The Police Chief shall revoke any registration issued to a person who has pleaded guilty or been convicted of a violation of Section 509.13(b), (c), (d) or to a person who has pleaded guilty or been convicted of two (2) violations of Section 509.13(e).
- (7) Any applicant shall have the right to appeal the denial or revocation of registration by immediately requesting review by the City Manager. The appeal to the City Manager shall be taken by the applicant within seven (7) days after receipt of the notice of denial or revocation by filing a written notice of appeal with the City Manager. The City Manager shall set the matter for hearing within seven (7) days of receipt of the notice of appeal and issue his decision within seven (7) days after completion of the hearing. The City Manager may affirm the decision of the Police Chief or direct the Police Chief to issue the registration or rescind the revocation. The applicant may appeal the decision of the City Manager to a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (8) Whoever violates Section 509.13 (f)(1) shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 1828-12. Passed 3-8-12.)

**509.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

**CHAPTER 513**  
**Drug Abuse Control**

<b>513.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>513.09</b>	<b>Controlled substance or prescription labels.</b>
<b>513.02</b>	<b>Gift of marihuana.</b>	<b>513.10</b>	<b>Hypodermic possession, display and dispensing.</b>
<b>513.03</b>	<b>Drug abuse; controlled substance possession or use.</b>	<b>513.11</b>	<b>Harmful intoxicants; possessing nitrous oxide in motor vehicle.</b>
<b>513.04</b>	<b>Possessing drug abuse instruments.</b>	<b>513.12</b>	<b>Drug paraphernalia.</b>
<b>513.05</b>	<b>Permitting drug abuse.</b>	<b>513.121</b>	<b>Marihuana drug paraphernalia.</b>
<b>513.06</b>	<b>Illegal cultivation of marihuana.</b>	<b>513.13</b>	<b>Counterfeit controlled substances.</b>
<b>513.07</b>	<b>Possessing or using harmful intoxicants.</b>	<b>513.14</b>	<b>Offender may be required to pay for controlled substance tests.</b>
<b>513.08</b>	<b>Illegally dispensing drug samples.</b>	<b>513.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Federal prosecution bar to local prosecution - see Ohio R.C. 2925.50, 3719.19  
 Analysis report and notarized statement as evidence - see Ohio R.C 2925.51  
 Criteria for granting probation - see Ohio R.C 3719.70(B)  
 Attempted drug abuse offenses - see GEN. OFF. 501.09(e)  
 Adulterating food with drug of abuse - see GEN. OFF. 537.13  
 Using weapons while under the influence - see GEN. OFF. 549.03.

**513.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter, certain terms are defined as follows:

- (a) "Administer" means the direct application of a drug, whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion or any other means to a person or an animal.
- (b) "Controlled substance" means a drug, compound, mixture, preparation or substance included in Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V.
- (c) "Dispense" means sell, leave with, give away, dispose of or deliver.
- (d) "Distribute" means to deal in, ship, transport or deliver but does not include administering or dispensing a drug.
- (e) "Hypodermic" means a hypodermic syringe or needle, or other instrument or device for the injection of medication.

- (f) "Manufacturer" means a person who manufactures a controlled substance as "manufacture" is defined in Ohio R.C. 3715.01.
- (g) Except as provided in subsection (g)(2) hereof:
  - (1) "Marihuana" means all parts of a plant of the genus cannabis, whether growing or not, the seeds of a plant of that type; the resin extracted from a part of a plant of that type; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of a plant of that type or of its seeds or resin. "Marihuana" does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oils or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks, except the resin extracted from the mature stalks, fiber, oil or cake, or the sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination. (ORC 3719.01)
  - (2) "Marihuana" does not include hashish. (ORC 2925.01)
- (h) "Controlled substance analog" has the same meaning as provided in Ohio R.C. 3719.01.
- (i) "Official written order" means an order written on a form provided for that purpose by the Director of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, under any laws of the United States making provision for the order, if the order forms are authorized and required by Federal law.
- (j) "Pharmacist" means a person licensed under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4729 to engage in the practice of pharmacy.
- (k) "Pharmacy" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4729.01.
- (l) "Poison" means any drug, chemical, or preparation likely to be deleterious or destructive to adult human life in quantities of four grams or less.
- (m) "Licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs", "prescriber" and "prescription" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4729.01.
- (n) "Sale" includes delivery, barter, exchange, transfer or gift, or offer thereof, and each transaction of those natures made by any person, whether as principal, proprietor, agent, servant or employee.

- (o) "Schedule I", "Schedule II", "Schedule III", "Schedule IV" and "Schedule V" mean controlled substance Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V respectively, established pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3719.41, as amended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3719.43 or 3719.44.
- (p) "Wholesaler" means a person who, on official written orders other than prescriptions, supplies controlled substances that the person has not manufactured, produced or prepared personally and includes a "wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs" as defined in Ohio R.C. 4729.01.  
(ORC 3719.01)
- (q) "Drug of abuse" means any controlled substance as defined in subsection (b) hereof, any harmful intoxicant as defined in subsection (x) hereof and any dangerous drug as defined in subsection (r) hereof.  
(ORC 3719.011)
- (r) "Dangerous drug" means any of the following:
- (1) Any drug to which either of the following applies:
    - A. Under the "Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act", 52 Stat. 1040 (1938), 21 U.S.C.A. 301, as amended, the drug is required to bear a label containing the legend "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription" or "Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian" or any similar restrictive statement, or the drug may be dispensed only upon a prescription;
    - B. Under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3715 or 3719, the drug may be dispensed only upon a prescription.
  - (2) Any drug that contains a Schedule V narcotic drug and that is exempt from Ohio R.C. Chapter 3719 or to which that chapter does not apply;
  - (3) Any drug intended for administration by injection into the human body other than through a natural orifice of the human body. (ORC 4729.02)
- (s) "Bulk amount" of a controlled substance means any of the following:
- (1) For any compound, mixture, preparation, or substance included in Schedule I, Schedule II or Schedule III, with the exception of controlled substance analogs, marihuana, cocaine, L.S.D., heroin, and hashish and except as provided in subsection (s)(2) or (5) hereof, whichever of the following is applicable:
    - A. An amount equal to or exceeding ten grams or twenty-five unit doses of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule I opiate or opium derivative;
    - B. An amount equal to or exceeding ten grams of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of raw or gum opium;
    - C. An amount equal to or exceeding thirty grams or ten unit doses of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule I hallucinogen other than tetrahydrocannabinol, or lysergic acid amide, or a Schedule I stimulant or depressant;
    - D. An amount equal to or exceeding twenty grams or five times the maximum daily dose in the usual dose range specified in a standard pharmaceutical reference manual of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule II opiate or opium derivative;
    - E. An amount equal to or exceeding five grams or ten unit doses of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of phencyclidine;

- F. An amount equal to or exceeding 120 grams or thirty times the maximum daily dose in the usual dose range specified in a standard pharmaceutical reference manual of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule II stimulant that is in a final dosage form manufactured by a person authorized by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 52 Stat. 1040 (1938), 21 U.S.C.A. 301, as amended, and the Federal Drug Abuse Control laws as defined in Ohio R.C. 3719.01, that is or contains any amount of a Schedule II depressant substance or a Schedule II hallucinogenic substance;
- G. An amount equal to or exceeding three grams of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule II stimulant, or any of its salts or isomers, that is not in a final dosage form manufactured by a person authorized by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Drug Abuse Control laws;
  - (2) An amount equal to or exceeding one hundred twenty grams or thirty times the maximum daily dose in the usual dose range specified in a standard pharmaceutical reference manual of a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule III or IV substance other than an anabolic steroid or a Schedule III opiate or opium derivative;
  - (3) An amount equal to or exceeding twenty grams or five times the maximum daily dose in the usual dose range specified in a standard pharmaceutical reference manual of a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule III opiate or opium derivative;
  - (4) An amount equal to or exceeding 250 milliliters or 250 grams of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule V substance.
  - (5) An amount equal to or exceeding 200 solid dosage units, sixteen grams or sixteen milliliters of a compound, mixture, preparation or substance that is or contains any amount of a Schedule III anabolic steroid.
- (t) "Unit dose" means an amount or unit of a compound, mixture or preparation containing a controlled substance, that is separately identifiable and in a form that indicates that it is the amount or unit by which the controlled substance is separately administered to or taken by an individual.
- (u) "Cultivate" includes planting, watering, fertilizing or tilling.
- (v) "Drug abuse offense" means any of the following:
  - (1) A violation of Ohio R.C.. 2925.02, 2925.03, 2925.04 to 2925.06, 2925.11, 2925.12, 2925.13, 2925.22, 2925.23, 2925.31, 2925.32, 2925.36 or 2925.37; or a violation of Ohio R.C. 2913.02(A) that constitutes theft of drugs;
  - (2) A violation of an existing or former law of this or any other state or of the United States, that is substantially equivalent to any section listed in subsection (v)(1) hereof;
  - (3) An offense under an existing or former law of this or any other state, or of the United States, of which planting, cultivating, harvesting, processing, making, manufacturing, producing, shipping, transporting, delivering, acquiring, possessing, storing, distributing, dispensing, selling, inducing another to use, administering to another, using or otherwise dealing with a controlled substance is an element;



- (4) A conspiracy or attempt to commit, or complicity in committing or attempting to commit any offense under subsection (v)(1), (2) or (3) hereof.
- (w) "Felony drug abuse offense" means any drug abuse offense that would constitute a felony under the laws of this State, any other state or the United States.
- (x) "Harmful intoxicant" does not include beer or intoxicating liquor, but means any of the following:
  - (1) Any compound, mixture, preparation or substance the gas, fumes or vapor of which when inhaled can induce intoxication, excitement, giddiness, irrational behavior, depression, stupefaction, paralysis, unconsciousness, asphyxiation or other harmful physiological effects, and includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:
    - A. Any volatile organic solvent, plastic cement, model cement, fingernail polish remover, lacquer thinner, cleaning fluid, gasoline, or other preparation containing a volatile organic solvent;
    - B. Any aerosol propellant;
    - C. Any fluorocarbon refrigerant;
    - D. Any anesthetic gas.
  - (2) Gamma Butyrolactone;
  - (3) 1,4 Butanediol.
- (y) "Manufacture" means to plant, cultivate, harvest, process, make, prepare or otherwise engage in any part of the production of a drug by propagation, extraction, chemical synthesis or compounding, or any combination of the same, and includes packaging, repackaging, labeling and other activities incident to production.
- (z) "Possess" or "possession" means having control over a thing or substance but may not be inferred solely from mere access to the thing or substance through ownership or occupation of the premises upon which the thing or substance is found.
- (aa) "Sample drug" means a drug or pharmaceutical preparation that would be hazardous to health or safety if used without the supervision of a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs, or a drug of abuse, and that, at one time, had been placed in a container plainly marked as a sample by a manufacturer.
- (bb) "Standard pharmaceutical reference manual" means the current edition, with cumulative changes if any, of references that are approved by the State Board of Pharmacy.
- (cc) "Juvenile" means a person under eighteen years of age.
- (dd) "School" means any school operated by a board of education, any community school established under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3314, or any nonpublic school for which the State Board of Education prescribes minimum standards under Ohio R.C. 3301.07, whether or not any instruction, extracurricular activities or training provided by the school is being conducted at the time a criminal offense is committed.

- (ee) "School premises" means either of the following:
- (1) The parcel of real property on which any school is situated, whether or not any instruction, extracurricular activities or training provided by the school is being conducted on the premises at the time a criminal offense is committed;
  - (2) Any other parcel of real property that is owned or leased by a board of education of a school, any community school established under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3314, or the governing body of a nonpublic school for which the State Board of Education prescribes minimum standards under Ohio R.C. 3301.07 and on which some of the instruction, extracurricular activities or training of the school is conducted, whether or not any instruction, extracurricular activities or training provided by the school is being conducted on the parcel of real property at the time a criminal offense is committed.
- (ff) "School building" means any building in which any of the instruction, extracurricular activities or training provided by a school is conducted, whether or not any instruction, extracurricular activities or training provided by the school is being conducted in the school building at the time a criminal offense is committed.
- (gg) "Counterfeit controlled substance" means:
- (1) Any drug that bears, or whose container or label bears, a trademark, trade name or other identifying mark used without authorization of the owner of rights to that trademark, trade name or identifying mark; or
  - (2) Any unmarked or unlabeled substance that is represented to be a controlled substance manufactured, processed, packed or distributed by a person other than the person that manufactured, processed, packed or distributed it; or
  - (3) Any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance but is not a controlled substance or is a different controlled substance; or
  - (4) Any substance other than a controlled substance that a reasonable person would believe to be a controlled substance because of its similarity in shape, size and color, or its marking, labeling, packaging, distribution or the price for which it is sold or offered for sale.
- (hh) An offense is "committed in the vicinity of a school" if the offender commits the offense on school premises, in a school building, or within one thousand feet of the boundaries of any school premises, regardless of whether the offender knows the offense is being committed on school premises, in a school building, or within one thousand feet of the boundaries of any school premises.
- (ii) An offense is "committed in the vicinity of a juvenile" if the offender commits the offense within one hundred feet of a juvenile or within the view of a juvenile, regardless of whether the offender knows the age of the juvenile, whether the offender knows the offense is being committed within one hundred feet of or within view of the juvenile, or whether the juvenile actually views the commission of the offense.
- (jj) "Hashish" means the resin or a preparation of the resin contained in marihuana, whether in solid form or in a liquid concentrate, liquid extract, or liquid distillate form.
- (kk) "Public premises" means any hotel, restaurant, tavern, store, arena, hall, or other place of public accommodation, business, amusement, or resort.

- (ll) “Methamphetamine” means methamphetamine, any salt, isomer, or salt of an isomer of methamphetamine, or any compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing methamphetamine or any salt, isomer or salt of an isomer of methamphetamine.
- (mm) “Lawful prescription” means a prescription that is issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs, that is not altered or forged, and that was not obtained by means of deception or by the commission of any theft offense.
- (nn) “Deception” and “theft offense” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01. (ORC 2925.01)

### **513.02 GIFT OF MARIHUANA.**

(a) No person shall knowingly give or offer to make a gift of twenty grams or less of marihuana.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of trafficking in marihuana. Trafficking in marihuana is a minor misdemeanor for the first offense and, for any subsequent offense, it is a misdemeanor of the third degree. If the offense was committed in the vicinity of a school or the vicinity of a juvenile, trafficking in marihuana is a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(c) The court may by order suspend for not more than five years the driver’s or commercial driver’s license or permit of any person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to any violation of this section. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender’s driver’s or commercial driver’s license or permit in accordance with Ohio R.C. 2925.03(G). If an offender’s driver’s or commercial driver’s license or permit is suspended pursuant to this subsection, the offender, at any time after the expiration of two years from the day on which the offender’s sentence was imposed, may file a motion with the sentencing court requesting termination of the suspension; upon the filing of such a motion and the court’s finding of good cause for the termination, the court may terminate the suspension. (ORC 2925.03)

### **513.03 DRUG ABUSE; CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POSSESSION OR USE.**

(a) No person shall knowingly obtain, possess or use a controlled substance or a controlled substance analog.

- (b) (1) This section does not apply to the following:
  - A. Manufacturers, licensed health professionals authorized to prescribe drugs, pharmacists, owners of pharmacies and other persons whose conduct was in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapters 3719, 4715, 4729, 4730, 4731 and 4741.
  - B. If the offense involves an anabolic steroid, any person who is conducting or participating in a research project involving the use of an anabolic steroid if the project has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration;
  - C. Any person who sells, offers for sale, prescribes, dispenses or administers for livestock or other nonhuman species an anabolic steroid that is expressly intended for administration through implants to livestock or other nonhuman species and approved for that purpose under the "Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act", 52 Stat. 1040 (1938), 21 U.S.C.A. 301, as amended, and is sold, offered for sale, prescribed, dispensed or administered for that purpose in accordance with that Act;

- D. Any person who obtained the controlled substance pursuant to a lawful prescription issued by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs.
- (2) A. As used in subsection (b)(2) of this section:
1. “Community addiction services provider” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 5119.01.
  2. “Community control sanction” and “drug treatment program” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
  3. “Health care facility” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2919.16.
  4. “Minor drug possession offense” means a violation of this section that is a misdemeanor or a felony of the fifth degree.
  5. “Post-release control sanction” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2967.28.
  6. “Peace officer” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2935.01.
  7. “Public agency” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2930.01.
  8. “Qualified individual” means a person who is not on community control or post-release control and is a person acting in good faith who seeks or obtains medical assistance for another person who is experiencing a drug overdose, a person who experiences a drug overdose and who seeks medical assistance for that overdose, or a person who is the subject of another person seeking or obtaining medical assistance for that overdose as described in subsection (b)(2)B. of this section.
  9. “Seek or obtain medical assistance” includes, but is not limited to making a 9-1-1 call, contacting in person or by telephone call an on-duty peace officer, or transporting or presenting a person to a health care facility.
- B. Subject to subsection (b)(2)F. of this section, a qualified individual shall not be arrested, charged, prosecuted, convicted or penalized pursuant to this chapter for a minor drug possession offense if all of the following apply:
1. The evidence of the obtaining, possession or use of the controlled substance or controlled substance analog that would be the basis of the offense was obtained as a result of the qualified individual seeking the medical assistance or experiencing an overdose and needing medical assistance.
  2. Subject to subsection (b)(2)G. of this section, within thirty days after seeking or obtaining the medical assistance, the qualified individual seeks and obtains a screening and receives a referral for treatment from a community addiction services provider or a properly credentialed addiction treatment professional.
  3. Subject to subsection (b)(2)G. of this section, the qualified individual who obtains a screening and receives a referral for treatment under subsection (b)(2)B.1. of this section, upon the request of any prosecuting attorney, submits documentation to the prosecuting attorney that verifies that the qualified individual satisfied the requirements of that subsection. The documentation shall be limited to the date and time of the screening obtained and referral received.

- C. If a person is found to be in violation of any community control sanction and if the violation is a result of either of the following, the court shall first consider ordering the person's participation or continued participation in a drug treatment program or mitigating the penalty specified in Ohio R.C. 2929.13, 2929.15, or 2929.25, whichever is applicable, after which the court has the discretion either to order the person's participation or continued participation in a drug treatment program or to impose the penalty with the mitigating factor specified in any of those applicable sections:
1. Seeking or obtaining medical assistance in good faith for another person who is experiencing a drug overdose;
  2. Experiencing a drug overdose and seeking medical assistance for that overdose or being the subject of another person seeking or obtaining medical assistance for that overdose as described in subsection (b)(2)B. of this section.
- D. If a person is found to be in violation of any post-release control sanction and if the violation is a result of either of the following, the court or the parole board shall first consider ordering the person's participation or continued participation in a drug treatment program or mitigating the penalty specified in Ohio R.C. 2929.141 or 2967.28, whichever is applicable, after which the court or the parole board has the discretion either to order the person's participation or continued participation in a drug treatment program or to impose the penalty with the mitigating factor specified in either of those applicable sections:
1. Seeking or obtaining medical assistance in good faith for another person who is experiencing a drug overdose;
  2. Experiencing a drug overdose and seeking medical assistance for that emergency or being the subject of another person seeking or obtaining medical assistance for that overdose as described in subsection (b)(2)B. of this section.
- E. Nothing in subsection (b)(2)B. of this section shall be construed to do any of the following:
1. Limit the admissibility of any evidence in connection with the investigation or prosecution of a crime with regards to a defendant who does not qualify for the protections of subsection (b)(2)B. of this section or with regards to any crime other than a minor drug possession offense committed by a person who qualifies for protection pursuant to subsection (b)(2)B. of this section for a minor drug possession offense;
  2. Limit any seizure of evidence or contraband otherwise permitted by law;
  3. Limit or abridge the authority of a peace officer to detain or take into custody a person in the course of an investigation or to effectuate an arrest for any offense except as provided in that division;
  4. Limit, modify or remove any immunity from liability available pursuant to law in effect prior to the effective date of this amendment to any public agency or to an employee of any public agency.

- F. Subsection (b)(2)B. of this section does not apply to any person who twice previously has been granted an immunity under subsection (b)(2)B. of this section. No person shall be granted an immunity under subsection (b)(2)B. of this section more than two times.
  - G. Nothing in this section shall compel any qualified individual to disclose protected health information in a way that conflicts with the requirements of the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996", 104 Pub. L. No. 191, 110 Stat. 2021, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq., as amended, and regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to implement the act or the requirements of 42 C.F.R. Part 2.
- (c) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of one of the following:
- (1) If the drug involved in the violation is a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance included in Schedule III, IV, or V, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of possession of drugs. Possession of drugs is a misdemeanor if the amount of the drug involved does not exceed the bulk amount. The penalty for the offense shall be determined as follows: possession of drugs is a misdemeanor of the first degree or, if the offender previously has been convicted of a drug abuse offense, a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (2) If the drug involved in the violation is marihuana or a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing marihuana other than hashish, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of possession of marihuana. Possession of marihuana is a misdemeanor if the amount of the drug involved does not exceed 200 grams. The penalty for the offense shall be determined as follows:
    - A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(2)B. hereof, possession of marihuana is a minor misdemeanor.
    - B. If the amount of the drug involved equals or exceeds 100 grams but is less than 200 grams, possession of marihuana is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
  - (3) If the drug involved in the violation is hashish or a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing hashish, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of possession of hashish. Possession of hashish is a misdemeanor if the amount of the drug involved does not exceed the maximum amount specified in subsection (c)(3)B. hereof. The penalty for the offense shall be determined as follows:
    - A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(3)B. hereof, possession of hashish is a minor misdemeanor.
    - B. If the amount of the drug involved equals or exceeds five grams but is less than ten grams of hashish in a solid form or equals or exceeds one gram but is less than two grams of hashish in a liquid concentrate, liquid extract, or liquid distillate form, possession of hashish is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(d) In addition to any other sanction that is imposed for an offense under this section, the court that sentences an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit for not more than five years.

(e) Arrest or conviction for a minor misdemeanor violation of this section does not constitute a criminal record and need not be reported by the person so arrested or convicted in response to any inquiries about the person's criminal record, including any inquiries contained in any application for employment, license, or other right or privilege, or made in connection with the person's appearance as a witness. (ORC 2925.11)

#### **513.04 POSSESSING DRUG ABUSE INSTRUMENTS.**

(a) No person shall knowingly make, obtain, possess or use any instrument, article or thing the customary and primary purpose of which is for the administration or use of a dangerous drug, other than marihuana, when the instrument involved is a hypodermic or syringe, whether or not of crude or extemporized manufacture or assembly, and the instrument, article or thing involved has been used by the offender to unlawfully administer or use a dangerous drug, other than marihuana, or to prepare a dangerous drug, other than marihuana, for unlawful administration or use.

(b) This section does not apply to manufacturers, licensed health professionals authorized to prescribe drugs, pharmacists, owners of pharmacies and other persons whose conduct was in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapters 3719, 4715, 4729, 4730, 4731 and 4741.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of possessing drug abuse instruments, a misdemeanor of the second degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a drug abuse offense, violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(d) In addition to any other sanction imposed upon an offender for a violation of this section, the court may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit for not more than five years. (ORC 2925.12)

#### **513.05 PERMITTING DRUG ABUSE.**

(a) No person, who is the owner, operator or person in charge of a locomotive, watercraft, aircraft or other vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4501.01(A), shall knowingly permit the vehicle to be used for the commission of a felony drug abuse offense.

(b) No person, who is the owner, lessee or occupant, or who has custody, control or supervision of premises, or real estate, including vacant land, shall knowingly permit the premises, or real estate, including vacant land, to be used for the commission of a felony drug abuse offense by another person.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of permitting drug abuse, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the felony drug abuse offense in question is a violation of Ohio R.C. 2925.02 or 2925.03, permitting drug abuse is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(d) In addition to any other sanction imposed for an offense under this section, the court that sentences a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit for not more than five years.

(e) Any premises or real estate that is permitted to be used in violation of subsection (b) hereof constitutes a nuisance subject to abatement pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 3767. (ORC 2925.13)

### **513.06 ILLEGAL CULTIVATION OF MARIHUANA.**

(a) No person shall knowingly cultivate marihuana.

(b) This section does not apply to any person listed in Ohio R.C. 2925.03(B)(1) to (3) to the extent and under the circumstances described in those divisions.

(c) Whoever commits a violation of subsection (a) hereof is guilty of illegal cultivation of marihuana. Illegal cultivation of marihuana is a misdemeanor if the amount of marihuana involved does not exceed 200 grams.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(2) hereof, illegal cultivation of marihuana is a minor misdemeanor, or if the offense was committed in the vicinity of a school or in the vicinity of a juvenile, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(2) If the amount of marihuana involved equals or exceeds 100 grams but is less than 200 grams, illegal cultivation of marihuana is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, or if the offense was committed in the vicinity of a school or in the vicinity of a juvenile, a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(d) In addition to any other sanction imposed for an offense under this section, the court that sentences an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section may suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit in accordance with division (G) of Ohio R.C. 2925.03. If an offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit is suspended in accordance with that division, the offender may request termination of, and the court may terminate, the suspension in accordance with that division.

(e) Arrest or conviction for a minor misdemeanor violation of this section does not constitute a criminal record and need not be reported by the person so arrested or convicted in response to any inquiries about the person's criminal record, including any inquiries contained in an application for employment, a license, or any other right or privilege or made in connection with the person's appearance as a witness. (ORC 2925.04)

### **513.07 POSSESSING OR USING HARMFUL INTOXICANTS.**

(a) Except for lawful research, clinical, medical, dental or veterinary purposes, no person, with purpose to induce intoxication or similar physiological effects, shall obtain, possess or use a harmful intoxicant.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of abusing harmful intoxicants, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a drug abuse offense, abusing harmful intoxicants is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(c) In addition to any other sanction imposed upon an offender for a violation of this section, the court may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit for not more than five years. (ORC 2925.31)



**513.08 ILLEGALLY DISPENSING DRUG SAMPLES.**

(a) No person shall knowingly furnish another a sample drug.

(b) Subsection (a) hereof does not apply to manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacists, owners of pharmacies, licensed health professionals authorized to prescribe drugs, and other persons whose conduct is in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapters 3719, 4715, 4729, 4730, 4731, and 4741.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of illegal dispensing of drug samples. If the drug involved in the offense is a dangerous drug or a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance included in Schedule III, IV, or V, or is marihuana, the penalty for the offense shall be determined as follows:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(2) hereof, illegal dispensing of drug samples is a misdemeanor of the second degree.
- (2) If the offense was committed in the vicinity of a school or in the vicinity of a juvenile, illegal dispensing of drug samples is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(d) In addition to any other sanction imposed for an offense under this section, the court that sentences an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit for not more than five years. (ORC 2925.36)

**513.09 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OR PRESCRIPTION LABELS.**

(a) As used in this section, "repackager" and "outsourcing facility" have the same meanings as in ORC 4729.01.

Whenever a manufacturer sells a controlled substance, and whenever a wholesaler, repackager, or outsourcing facility sells a controlled substance in a package the wholesaler, repackager or outsourcing facility has prepared, the manufacturer or the wholesaler, repackager or outsourcing facility, as the case may be, shall securely affix to each package in which the controlled substance is contained a label showing in legible English the name and address of the vendor and the quantity, kind, and form of controlled substance contained therein. No person, except a pharmacist for the purpose of dispensing a controlled substance upon a prescription shall alter, deface or remove any label so affixed.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, when a pharmacist dispenses any controlled substance on a prescription for use by a patient, or supplies a controlled substance to a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs for use by the professional in personally furnishing patients with controlled substances, the pharmacist shall affix to the container in which the controlled substance is dispensed or supplied a label showing the following:

- (1) The name and address of the pharmacy dispensing or supplying the controlled substance;
- (2) The name of the patient for whom the controlled substance is prescribed and, if the patient is an animal, the name of the owner and the species of the animal;
- (3) The name of the prescriber;
- (4) All directions for use stated on the prescription or provided by the prescriber;

- (5) The date on which the controlled substance was dispensed or supplied;
- (6) The name, quantity and strength of the controlled substance and, if applicable, the name of the distributor or manufacturer.

(c) The requirements of subsection (b) of this section do not apply when a controlled substance is prescribed or supplied for administration to an ultimate user who is institutionalized.

(d) A licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs who personally furnishes a controlled substance to a patient shall comply with division (A) of ORC 4729.291 with respect to labeling and packaging of the controlled substance.

(e) No person shall alter, deface, or remove any label affixed pursuant to this section as long as any of the original contents remain.

(f) Every label for a schedule II, III or IV controlled substance shall contain the following warning:

“Caution: federal law prohibits the transfer of this drug to any person other than the patient for whom it was prescribed”. (ORC 3719.08)

(g) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender has previously been convicted of a violation of this section, Ohio R.C. 3719.07 or 3719.08 or a drug abuse offense, such violation is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 3719.99)

### **513.10 HYPODERMIC POSSESSION, DISPLAY AND DISPENSING.**

(a) Possession of a hypodermic is authorized for the following:

- (1) A manufacturer or distributor of, or dealer in, hypodermics or medication packaged in hypodermics, and any authorized agent or employee of that manufacturer, distributor or dealer, in the regular course of business;
- (2) Terminal distributor of dangerous drugs, in the regular course of business;
- (3) A person authorized to administer injections, in the regular course of the person's profession or employment;
- (4) A person, when the hypodermic was lawfully obtained and is kept and used for the purpose of self-administration of insulin or other drug prescribed for the treatment of disease by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs;
- (5) A person whose use of a hypodermic is for legal research, clinical, educational or medicinal purposes;
- (6) A farmer, for the lawful administration of a drug to an animal;
- (7) A person whose use of a hypodermic is for lawful professional, mechanical, trade or craft purposes.

(b) No manufacturer or distributor of, or dealer in, hypodermics or medication packaged in hypodermics, or their authorized agents or employees, and no terminal distributor of dangerous drugs, shall display any hypodermic for sale. No person authorized to possess a hypodermic pursuant to division (a) of this section shall negligently fail to take reasonable precautions to prevent any hypodermic in the person's possession from theft or acquisition by any unauthorized person. (ORC 3719.172)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. If the offender has previously been convicted of a violation of this section, Ohio R.C. 3719.05, 3719.06, 3719.13, 3719.172(B) or (E), or 3719.31 or a drug abuse offense, a violation is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 3719.99)

**513.11 HARMFUL INTOXICANTS; POSSESSING NITROUS OXIDE  
IN MOTOR VEHICLE.**

(a) As used in this section, "motor vehicle", "street" and "highway" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.

(b) Unless authorized under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3719, 4715, 4729, 4731, 4741 or 4765, no person shall possess an open cartridge of nitrous oxide in either of the following circumstances:

- (1) While operating or being a passenger in or on a motor vehicle on a street, highway, or other public or private property open to the public for purposes of vehicular traffic or parking;
- (2) While being in or on a stationary motor vehicle on a street, highway, or other public or private property open to the public for purposes of vehicular traffic or parking.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of possessing nitrous oxide in a motor vehicle, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(d) In addition to any other sanction imposed upon an offender for possessing nitrous oxide in a motor vehicle, the court may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. (ORC 2925.33)

**513.12 DRUG PARAPHERNALIA.**

(a) As used in this section, "drug paraphernalia" means any equipment, product or material of any kind that is used by the offender, intended by the offender for use or designed for use, in propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body, a controlled substance in violation of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2925. "Drug paraphernalia" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following equipment, products or materials that are used by the offender, intended by the offender for use or designated by the offender for use, in any of the following manners:

- (1) A kit for propagating, cultivating, growing or harvesting any species of a plant that is a controlled substance or from which a controlled substance can be derived;
- (2) A kit for manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing or preparing a controlled substance;
- (3) Any object, instrument, or device for manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, or preparing methamphetamine;
- (4) An isomerization device for increasing the potency of any species of a plant that is a controlled substance;
- (5) Testing equipment for identifying, or analyzing the strength, effectiveness or purity of, a controlled substance;
- (6) A scale or balance for weighing or measuring a controlled substance;
- (7) A diluent or adulterant, such as quinine hydrochloride, mannitol, mannite, dextrose or lactose, for cutting a controlled substance;
- (8) A separation gin or sifter for removing twigs and seeds from, or otherwise cleaning or refining, marijuana;
- (9) A blender, bowl, container, spoon or mixing device for compounding a controlled substance;
- (10) A capsule, balloon, envelope or container for packaging small quantities of a controlled substance;
- (11) A container or device for storing or concealing a controlled substance;

- (12) A hypodermic syringe, needle or instrument for parenterally injecting a controlled substance into the human body;
- (13) An object, instrument or device for ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body, marihuana, cocaine, hashish or hashish oil, such as a metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic or ceramic pipe, with or without a screen, permanent screen, hashish head or punctured metal bowl; water pipe; carburetion tube or device; smoking or carburetion mask; roach clip or similar object used to hold burning material, such as a marihuana cigarette, that has become too small or too short to be held in the hand; miniature cocaine spoon, or cocaine vial; chamber pipe; carburetor pipe; electric pipe; air driver pipe; chillum; bong; or ice pipe or chiller.

(b) In determining if any equipment, product or material is drug paraphernalia, a court or law enforcement officer shall consider, in addition to other relevant factors, the following:

- (1) Any statement by the owner, or by anyone in control, of the equipment, product or material, concerning its use;
- (2) The proximity in time or space of the equipment, product or material, or of the act relating to the equipment, product or material, to a violation of any provision of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2925;
- (3) The proximity of the equipment, product or material to any controlled substance;
- (4) The existence of any residue of a controlled substance on the equipment, product or material;
- (5) Direct or circumstantial evidence of the intent of the owner, or of anyone in control, of the equipment, product or material, to deliver it to any person whom the owner or person in control of the equipment, product or material knows intends to use the object to facilitate a violation of any provision of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2925. A finding that the owner, or anyone in control, of the equipment, product or material, is not guilty of a violation of any other provision of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2925, does not prevent a finding that the equipment, product or material was intended or designed by the offender for use as drug paraphernalia;
- (6) Any oral or written instruction provided with the equipment, product or material concerning its use;
- (7) Any descriptive material accompanying the equipment, product or material and explaining or depicting its use;
- (8) National or local advertising concerning the use of the equipment, product or material;
- (9) The manner and circumstances in which the equipment, product or material is displayed for sale;
- (10) Direct or circumstantial evidence of the ratio of the sales of the equipment, product or material to the total sales of the business enterprise;
- (11) The existence and scope of legitimate uses of the equipment, product or material in the community;
- (12) Expert testimony concerning the use of the equipment, product or material.

- (c)
  - (1) Subject to subsection (d)(2) of this section, no person shall knowingly use, or possess with purpose to use, drug paraphernalia.
  - (2) No person shall knowingly sell, or possess or manufacture with purpose to sell, drug paraphernalia, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the equipment, product or material will be used as drug paraphernalia.

- (3) No person shall place an advertisement in any newspaper, magazine, handbill or other publication that is published and printed and circulates primarily within this State, if the person knows that the purpose of the advertisement is to promote the illegal sale in the State of the equipment, product or material that the offender intended or designed for use as drug paraphernalia.
- (d) (1) This section does not apply to manufacturers, licensed health professionals authorized to prescribe drugs, pharmacists, owners of pharmacies and other persons whose conduct is in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapters 3719, 4715, 4729, 4730, 4731, and 4741. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the possession or use of a hypodermic as authorized by Section 513.10.
- (2) Subsection (c)(1) of this section does not apply to a person's use, or possession with purpose to use, any drug paraphernalia that is equipment, a product, or material of any kind that is used by the person, intended by the person for use, or designed for use in storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body marihuana.
- (e) Notwithstanding Ohio R.C. Chapter 2981, any drug paraphernalia that was used, possessed, sold or manufactured in violation of this section shall be seized, after a conviction for that violation shall be forfeited, and upon forfeiture shall be disposed of pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2981.12.
- (f) (1) Whoever violates subsection (c)(1) hereof is guilty of illegal use or possession of drug paraphernalia, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (f)(3) hereof, whoever violates subsection (c)(2) hereof is guilty of dealing in drug paraphernalia, a misdemeanor of the second degree.
- (3) Whoever violates subsection (c)(2) hereof by selling drug paraphernalia to a juvenile is guilty of selling drug paraphernalia to juveniles, a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (4) Whoever violates subsection (c)(3) hereof is guilty of illegal advertising of drug paraphernalia, a misdemeanor of the second degree.
- (g) In addition to any other sanction imposed upon an offender for a violation of this section, the court may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit for not more than five years. If the offender is a professionally licensed person, in addition to any other sanction imposed for a violation of this section, the court immediately shall comply with Ohio R.C. 2925.38. (ORC 2925.14)

### **513.121 MARIHUANA DRUG PARAPHERNALIA.**

- (a) As used in this section, "drug paraphernalia" has the same meaning as in Section 513.12.
- (b) In determining if any equipment, product, or material is drug paraphernalia, a court or law enforcement officer shall consider, in addition to other relevant factors, all factors identified in subsection (b) of Section 513.12.

(c) No person shall knowingly use, or possess with purpose to use, any drug paraphernalia that is equipment, a product, or material of any kind that is used by the person, intended by the person for use, or designed for use in storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body marihuana.

(d) This section does not apply to any person identified in subsection (d)(1) of Section 513.12 and it shall not be construed to prohibit the possession or use of a hypodermic as authorized by Section 513.10.

(e) Subsection (e) of Section 513.12 applies with respect to any drug paraphernalia that was used or possessed in violation of this section.

(f) Whoever violates subsection (c) of this section is guilty of illegal use or possession of marihuana drug paraphernalia, a minor misdemeanor.

(g) In addition to any other sanction imposed upon an offender for a violation of this section, the court may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit for not more than five years. If the offender is a professionally licensed person, in addition to any other sanction imposed for a violation of this section, the court immediately shall comply with Ohio R.C. 2925.38. (ORC 2925.141)

#### **513.13 COUNTERFEIT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**

(a) No person shall knowingly possess any counterfeit controlled substance.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of possession of counterfeit controlled substances, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2925.37)

(c) The court may suspend for not more than five years the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit. However, if the offender pleaded guilty to or was convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or the law of another state or the United States arising out of the same set of circumstances as the violation, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit for not more than five years. (ORC 2925.37)

#### **513.14 OFFENDER MAY BE REQUIRED TO PAY FOR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TESTS.**

In addition to the financial sanctions authorized or required under Ohio R.C. 2929.18 and 2929.28 and to any costs otherwise authorized or required under any provision of law, the court imposing sentence upon an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a drug abuse offense may order the offender to pay to the state, municipal, or county law enforcement agencies that handled the investigation and prosecution all of the costs that the state, municipal corporation, or county reasonably incurred in having tests performed under Ohio R.C. 2925.51, or in any other manner on any substance that was the basis of, or involved in, the offense to determine whether the substance contained any amount of a controlled substance if the results of the tests indicate that the substance tested contained any controlled substance. No court shall order an offender under this section to pay the costs of tests performed on a substance if the results of the tests do not indicate that the substance tested contained any controlled substance.

The court shall hold a hearing to determine the amount of costs to be imposed under this section. The court may hold the hearing as part of the sentencing hearing for the offender. (ORC 2925.511)

**513.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)





**CHAPTER 517**  
**Gambling**

<b>517.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>517.10</b>	<b>Location of instant bingo.</b>
<b>517.02</b>	<b>Gambling.</b>	<b>517.11</b>	<b>Bingo or game of chance records.</b>
<b>517.03</b>	<b>Operating a gambling house.</b>	<b>517.12</b>	<b>Bingo operator prohibitions.</b>
<b>517.04</b>	<b>Public gaming.</b>	<b>517.13</b>	<b>Bingo exceptions.</b>
<b>517.05</b>	<b>Cheating.</b>	<b>517.14</b>	<b>Instant bingo conduct by a veteran's or fraternal organization.</b>
<b>517.06</b>	<b>Methods of conducting a bingo game; prohibitions.</b>	<b>517.15</b>	<b>Skill-based amusement machines.</b>
<b>517.07</b>	<b>Instant bingo conduct.</b>	<b>517.16</b>	<b>Sweepstakes terminals.</b>
<b>517.08</b>	<b>Raffles.</b>	<b>517.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>
<b>517.09</b>	<b>Charitable instant bingo organizations.</b>		

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Lotteries prohibited; exception - see Ohio Const., Art. XV,  
 Sec. 6  
 Contributing to delinquency of minors - see Ohio R.C. 2151.41  
 Search warrants - see Ohio R.C. 2933.21(E)  
 Licensing charitable bingo games - see Ohio R.C. 2915.08

**517.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Bookmaking" means the business of receiving or paying off bets.
- (b) "Bet" means the hazarding of anything of value upon the result of an event, undertaking or contingency, but does not include a bona fide business risk.
- (c) "Scheme of chance" means a slot machine unless authorized under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3772, lottery unless authorized under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3770, numbers game, pool conducted for profit, or other scheme in which a participant gives a valuable consideration for a chance to win a prize, but does not include bingo, a skill-based amusement machine, or a pool not conducted for profit. "Scheme of chance" includes the use of an electronic device to reveal the results of a game entry if valuable consideration is paid, directly or indirectly, for a chance to win a prize. Valuable consideration is deemed to be paid for a chance to win a prize in the following instances:
  - (1) Less than fifty per cent of the goods or services sold by a scheme of chance operator in exchange for game entries are used or redeemed by participants at any one location;

- (2) Less than fifty per cent of participants who purchase goods or services at any one location do not accept, use or redeem the goods or services sold or purportedly sold;
  - (3) More than fifty per cent of prizes at any one location are revealed to participants through an electronic device simulating a game of chance or a "casino game" as defined in Ohio R.C. 3772.01;
  - (4) The good or service sold by a scheme of chance operator in exchange for a game entry cannot be used or redeemed in the manner advertised;
  - (5) A participant pays more than fair market value for goods or services offered by a scheme of chance operator in order to receive one or more game entries;
  - (6) A participant may use the electronic device to purchase additional game entries;
  - (7) A participant may purchase additional game entries by using points or credits won as prizes while using the electronic device;
  - (8) A scheme of chance operator pays out in prize money more than twenty per cent of the gross revenue received at one location; or
  - (9) A participant makes a purchase or exchange in order to obtain any good or service that may be used to facilitate play on the electronic device.
- As used in this subsection, "electronic device" means a mechanical, video, digital or electronic machine or device that is capable of displaying information on a screen or other mechanism and that is owned, leased or otherwise possessed by any person conducting a scheme of chance, or by that person's partners, affiliates, subsidiaries or contractors.
- (d) "Game of chance" means poker, craps, roulette, or other game in which a player gives anything of value in the hope of gain, the outcome of which is determined largely by chance, but does not include bingo.
  - (e) "Game of chance conducted for profit" means any game of chance designed to produce income for the person who conducts or operates the game of chance, but does not include bingo.
  - (f) "Gambling device" means any of the following:
    - (1) A book, totalizer or other equipment for recording bets;
    - (2) A ticket, token or other device representing a chance, share or interest in a scheme of chance or evidencing a bet;
    - (3) A deck of cards, dice, gaming table, roulette wheel, slot machine, or other apparatus designed for use in connection with a game of chance;
    - (4) Any equipment, device, apparatus or paraphernalia specially designed for gambling purposes;
    - (5) Bingo supplies sold or otherwise provided, or used, in violation of this chapter.
  - (g) "Gambling offense" means the following:
    - (1) A violation of Ohio R.C. 2915.02 to 2915.092, 2915.10 or 2915.11;
    - (2) A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States substantially equivalent to any section listed in subsection (g)(1) hereof or a violation of Ohio R.C. 2915.06 as it existed prior to July 1, 1996;
    - (3) An offense under an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States, of which gambling is an element;
    - (4) A conspiracy or attempt to commit, or complicity in committing an offense under subsection (g)(1), (2) or (3) hereof.
  - (h) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, "charitable organization" means either of the following:

- (1) An organization that is and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that currently is in effect stating that the organization is, exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (2) A volunteer rescue service organization, volunteer firefighter's organization, veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization that is exempt from federal, income taxation under subsection 501(c)(4), (c)(7), (c)(8), (c)(10) or (c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

To qualify as a charitable organization, an organization shall have been in continuous existence as such in this State for a period of two years immediately preceding either the making of an application for a bingo license under Ohio R.C. 2915.08 or the conducting of any game of chance as provided in division (D) of Ohio R.C. 2915.02.

- (i) "Religious organization" means any church, body of communicants or group that is not organized or operated for profit, that gathers in common membership for regular worship and religious observances.
- (j) "Veteran's organization" means any individual post or state headquarters of a national veteran's association or an auxiliary unit of any individual post of a national veteran's association, which post, state headquarters, or auxiliary unit is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation and either has received a letter from the state headquarters of the national veteran's association indicating that the individual post or auxiliary unit is in good standing with the national veteran's association or has received a letter from the national veteran's association indicating that the state headquarters is in good standing with the national veteran's association. As used in this subsection, "national veteran's association" means any veteran's association that has been in continuous existence as such for a period of at least five years and either is incorporated by an act of the United States congress or has a national dues-paying membership of at least five thousand persons.
- (k) "Volunteer firefighter's organization" means any organization of volunteer firefighters, as defined in Ohio R.C. 146.01, that is organized and operated exclusively to provide financial support for a volunteer fire department or a volunteer fire company and that is recognized or ratified by a county, municipal corporation, or township.
- (l) "Fraternal organization" means any society, order, state headquarters, or association within this State, except a college or high school fraternity, that is not organized for profit, that is a branch, lodge or chapter of a national or state organization, that exists exclusively for the common business of sodality of its members.
- (m) "Volunteer rescue service organization" means any organization of volunteers organized to function as an emergency medical service organization as defined in Ohio R.C. 4765.01.
- (n) "Charitable bingo game" means any bingo game described in subsection (o)(1) or (2) of this section that is conducted by a charitable organization that has obtained a license pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2915.08 and the proceeds of which are used for a charitable purpose.
- (o) "Bingo" means either of the following:
  - (1) A game with all of the following characteristics:
    - A. The participants use bingo cards or sheets, including paper formats and electronic representation or image formats, that are divided into twenty-five spaces arranged in five horizontal and five vertical rows of spaces, with each space, except the central space, being designated by a combination of a letter and a number and with the central space being designated as a free space.

- B. The participants cover the space on the bingo cards or sheets that correspond to combinations of letters and numbers that are announced by a bingo game operator.
  - C. A bingo game operator announces combinations of letters and numbers that appear on objects that a bingo game operator selects by chance, either manually or mechanically from a receptacle that contains seventy-five objects at the beginning of each game, each object marked by a different combination of a letter and a number that corresponds to one of the seventy-five possible combinations of a letter and a number that can appear on the bingo cards or sheets.
  - D. The winner of the bingo game includes any participant who properly announces during the interval between the announcements of letters and numbers as described in subsection (o)(1)C. hereof, that a predetermined and preannounced pattern of spaces has been covered on a bingo card or sheet being used by a participant.
- (2) Instant bingo, punch boards and raffles.
- (p) "Conduct" means to back, promote, organize, manage, carry on, sponsor, or prepare for the operation of bingo or a game of chance, a scheme of chance, or a sweepstakes.
  - (q) "Bingo game operator" means any person, except security personnel, who performs work or labor at the site of bingo, including, but not limited to, collecting money from participants, handing out bingo cards or sheets or objects to cover spaces on bingo cards or sheets, selecting from a receptacle the objects that contain the combination of letters and numbers that appear on bingo cards or sheets, calling out the combinations of letters and numbers, distributing prizes, selling or redeeming instant bingo tickets or cards, supervising the operation of a punch board, selling raffle tickets, selecting raffle tickets from a receptacle and announcing the winning numbers in a raffle, and preparing, selling, and serving food or beverages.
  - (r) "Participant" means any person who plays bingo.
  - (s) "Bingo session" means a period that includes both of the following:
    - (1) Not to exceed five continuous hours for the conduct of one or more games described in subsection (o)(1) of this section, instant bingo, and seal cards;
    - (2) A period for the conduct of instant bingo and seal cards for not more than two hours before and not more than two hours after the period described in subsection (s)(1) of this section.
  - (t) "Gross receipts" means all money or assets, including admission fees, that a person receives from bingo without the deduction of any amounts for prizes paid out or for the expenses of conducting bingo. "Gross receipts" does not include any money directly taken in from the sale of food or beverages by a charitable organization conducting bingo, or by a bona fide auxiliary unit or society of a charitable organization conducting bingo, provided all of the following apply:
    - (1) The auxiliary unit or society has been in existence as a bona fide auxiliary unit or society of the charitable organization for at least two years prior to conducting bingo.
    - (2) The person who purchases the food or beverage receives nothing of value except the food or beverage and items customarily received with the purchase of that food or beverage.
    - (3) The food and beverages are sold at customary and reasonable prices.

- (u) "Security personnel" includes any person who either is a sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal, township constable, or a police officer of a municipal corporation or has successfully completed a peace officer's training course pursuant to Ohio R.C. 109.71 to 109.79 and who is hired to provide security for the premises on which bingo is conducted.
- (v) "Charitable purpose" means that the net profit of bingo, other than instant bingo, is used by, or is given, donated, or otherwise transferred to, any of the following:
- (1) Any organization that is described in subsection 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), or 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is either a governmental unit or an organization that is tax exempt under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
  - (2) A veteran's organization that is a post, chapter, or organization of veterans, or an auxiliary unit or society of, or a trust or foundation for, any such post, chapter, or organization organized in the United States or any of its possessions, at least seventy-five per cent of the members of which are veterans and substantially all of the other members of which are individuals who are spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans, or such individuals, provided that no part of the net earnings of such post, chapter, or organization inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and further provided that the net profit is used by the post, chapter, or organization for the charitable purposes set forth in division (B)(12) of Ohio R.C. 5739.02, is used for awarding scholarships to or for attendance at an institution mentioned in division (B)(12) of Ohio R.C. 5739.02, is donated to a governmental agency, or is used for nonprofit youth activities, the purchase of United States or Ohio flags that are donated to schools, youth groups, or other bona fide nonprofit organizations, promotion of patriotism, or disaster relief;
  - (3) A fraternal organization that has been in continuous existence in this State for fifteen years and that uses the net profit exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals if contributions for such use would qualify as a deductible charitable contribution under subsection 170 of the Internal Revenue Code;
  - (4) A volunteer firefighter's organization that uses the net profit for the purposes set forth in subsection (k) of this section.
- (w) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 1, as now or hereafter amended.
- (x) "Youth athletic organization" means any organization, not organized for profit, that is organized and operated exclusively to provide financial support to, or to operate, athletic activities for persons who are twenty-one years of age or younger by means of sponsoring, organizing, operating or contributing to the support of an athletic team, club, league or association.
- (y) "Youth athletic park organization" means any organization, not organized for profit, that satisfies both of the following:
- (1) It owns, operates and maintains playing fields that satisfy both of the following:
    - A. The playing fields are used at least one hundred days per year for athletic activities by one or more organizations not organized for profit, each of which is organized and operated exclusively to provide financial support to, or to operate, athletic activities for persons who are eighteen years of age or younger by means of sponsoring, organizing, operating or contributing to the support of an athletic team, club, league or association;

- B. The playing fields are not used for any profit-making activity at any time during the year,
- (2) It uses the proceeds of bingo it conducts exclusively for the operation, maintenance and improvement of its playing fields of the type described in paragraph (1) hereof.
- (z) "Bingo supplies" means bingo cards or sheets; instant bingo tickets or cards; electronic bingo aids; raffle tickets; punch boards; seal cards; instant bingo ticket dispensers; and devices for selecting or displaying the combination of bingo letters and numbers or raffle tickets. Items that are "bingo supplies" are not gambling devices if sold or otherwise provided, and used, in accordance with this chapter. For purposes of this chapter, "bingo supplies" are not to be considered equipment used to conduct a bingo game.
- (aa) "Instant bingo" means a form of bingo that shall use folded or banded tickets or paper cards with perforated break-open tabs, a face of which is covered or otherwise hidden from view to conceal a number, letter, or symbol, or set of numbers, letters, or symbols, some of which have been designated in advance as prize winners, and may also include games in which some winners are determined by the random selection of one or more bingo numbers by the use of a seal card or bingo blower. In all "instant bingo" the prize amount and structure shall be predetermined. "Instant bingo" does not include any device that is activated by the insertion of a coin, currency, token, or an equivalent, and that contains as one of its components a video display monitor that is capable of displaying numbers, letters, symbols, or characters in winning or losing combinations.
- (bb) "Seal card" means a form of instant bingo that uses instant bingo tickets in conjunction with a board or placard that contains one or more seals that, when removed or opened, reveal predesignated winning numbers, letters, or symbols.
- (cc) "Raffle" means a form of bingo in which the one or more prizes are won by one or more persons who have purchased a raffle ticket. The one or more winners of the raffle are determined by drawing a ticket stub or other detachable section from a receptacle containing ticket stubs or detachable sections corresponding to all tickets sold for the raffle. "Raffle" does not include the drawing of a ticket stub or other detachable section of a ticket purchased to attend a professional sporting event if both of the following apply:
- (1) The ticket stub or other detachable section is used to select the winner of a free prize given away at the professional sporting event; and
- (2) The cost of the ticket is the same as the cost of a ticket to the professional sporting event on days when no free prize is given away.
- (dd) "Punch board" means a board containing a number of holes or receptacles of uniform size in which are placed, mechanically and randomly, serially numbered slips of paper that may be punched or drawn from the hole or receptacle when used in conjunction with instant bingo. A player may punch or draw the numbered slips of paper from the holes or receptacles and obtain the prize established for the game if the number drawn corresponds to a winning number or, if the punch board includes the use of a seal card, a potential winning number.
- (ee) "Gross profit" means gross receipts minus the amount actually expended for the payment of prize awards.

- (ff) "Net profit" means gross profit minus expenses.
- (gg) "Expenses" means the reasonable amount of gross profit actually expended for all of the following:
- (1) The purchase or lease of bingo supplies;
  - (2) The annual license fee required under Ohio R.C. 2915.08;
  - (3) Bank fees and service charges for a bingo session or game account described in Ohio R.C. 2915.10;
  - (4) Audits and accounting services;
  - (5) Safes;
  - (6) Cash registers;
  - (7) Hiring security personnel;
  - (8) Advertising bingo;
  - (9) Renting premises in which to conduct a bingo session;
  - (10) Tables and chairs;
  - (11) Expenses for maintaining and operating a charitable organization's facilities, including, but not limited to, a post home, club house, lounge, tavern, or canteen and any grounds attached to the post home, club house, lounge, tavern, or canteen;
  - (12) Payment of real property taxes and assessments that are levied on a premises on which bingo is conducted;
  - (13) Any other product or service directly related to the conduct of bingo that is authorized in rules adopted by the Attorney General under division (B)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2915.08.
- (hh) "Person" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 1.59 and includes any firm or any other legal entity, however organized.
- (ii) "Revoke" means to void permanently all rights and privileges of the holder of a license issued under Ohio R.C. 2915.08, 2915.081, or 2915.082 or a charitable gaming license issued by another jurisdiction.
- (jj) "Suspend" means to interrupt temporarily all rights and privileges of the holder of a license issued under Ohio R.C. 2915.08, 2915.081, or 2915.082 or a charitable gaming license issued by another jurisdiction.
- (kk) "Distributor" means any person who purchases or obtains bingo supplies and who does either of the following:
- (1) Sells, offers for sale, or otherwise provides or offers to provide the bingo supplies to another person for use in this State;
  - (2) Modifies, converts, adds to, or removes parts from the bingo supplies to further their promotion or sale for use in this State.
- (ll) "Manufacturer" means any person who assembles completed bingo supplies from raw materials, other items, or subparts or who modifies, converts, adds to, or removes parts from bingo supplies to further their promotion or sale.
- (mm) "Gross annual revenues" means the annual gross receipts derived from the conduct of bingo described in subsection (o)(1) of this section plus the annual net profit derived from the conduct of bingo described in subsection (o)(2) of this section.
- (nn) "Instant bingo ticket dispenser" means a mechanical device that dispenses an instant bingo ticket or card as the sole item of value dispensed and that has the following characteristics:

- (1) It is activated upon the insertion of United States currency.
  - (2) It performs no gaming functions.
  - (3) It does not contain a video display monitor or generate noise.
  - (4) It is not capable of displaying any numbers, letters, symbols, or characters in winning or losing combinations.
  - (5) It does not simulate or display rolling or spinning reels.
  - (6) It is incapable of determining whether a dispensed bingo ticket or card is a winning or nonwinning ticket or card and requires a winning ticket or card to be paid by a bingo game operator.
  - (7) It may provide accounting and security features to aid in accounting for the instant bingo tickets or cards it dispenses.
  - (8) It is not part of an electronic network and is not interactive.
- (oo) (1) "Electronic bingo aid" means an electronic device used by a participant to monitor bingo cards or sheets purchased at the time and place of a bingo session and that does all of the following:
- A. It provides a means for a participant to input numbers and letters announced by a bingo caller.
  - B. It compares the numbers and letters entered by the participant to the bingo faces previously stored in the memory of the device.
  - C. It identifies a winning bingo pattern.
- (2) "Electronic bingo aid" does not include any device into which a coin, currency, token, or an equivalent is inserted to activate play.
- (pp) "Deal of instant bingo tickets" means a single game of instant bingo tickets all with the same serial number.
- (qq) (1) "Slot machine" means either of the following:
- A. Any mechanical, electronic, video, or digital device that is capable of accepting anything of value, directly or indirectly, from or on behalf of a player who gives the thing of value in the hope of gain;
  - B. Any mechanical, electronic, video, or digital device that is capable of accepting anything of value, directly or indirectly, from or on behalf of a player to conduct bingo or a scheme or game of chance.
- (2) "Slot machine" does not include a skill-based amusement machine or an instant bingo ticket dispenser.
- (rr) "Net profit from the proceeds of the sale of instant bingo" means gross profit minus the ordinary, necessary, and reasonable expense expended for the purchase of instant bingo supplies, and, in the case of instant bingo conducted by a veteran's, fraternal or sporting organization, minus the payment by that organization of real property taxes, and assessments levied on a premises on which instant bingo is conducted.
- (ss) "Charitable instant bingo organization" means an organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is a charitable organization as defined in this section. A "charitable instant bingo organization" does not include a charitable organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that is created by a veteran's organization, a fraternal organization, or a sporting organization in regards to bingo conducted or assisted by a veteran's organization, a fraternal organization, or a sporting organization pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2915.13.



- (tt) “Game flare” means the board or placard that accompanies each deal of instant bingo tickets and that has printed on or affixed to it the following information for the game:
- (1) The name of the game;
  - (2) The manufacturer’s name or distinctive logo;
  - (3) The form number;
  - (4) The ticket count;
  - (5) The prize structure, including the number of winning instant bingo tickets by denomination and the respective winning symbol or number combinations for the winning instant bingo tickets;
  - (6) The cost per play;
  - (7) The serial number of the game.
- (uu) (1) “Skill-based amusement machine” means mechanical, video, digital, or electronic device that rewards the player or players, if at all, only with merchandise prizes or with redeemable vouchers redeemable only for merchandise prizes, provided that with respect to rewards for playing the game all of the following apply:
- A. The wholesale value of a merchandise prize awarded as a result of the single play of a machine does not exceed ten dollars;
  - B. Redeemable vouchers awarded for any single play of a machine are not redeemable for a merchandise prize with a wholesale value of more than ten dollars;
  - C. Redeemable vouchers are not redeemable for a merchandise prize that has a wholesale value of more than ten dollars times the fewest number of single plays necessary to accrue the redeemable vouchers required to obtain that prize; and
  - D. Any redeemable vouchers or merchandise prizes are distributed at the site of the skill-based amusement machine at the time of play.
- A card for the purchase of gasoline is a redeemable voucher for purposes of division (uu)(1) of this section even if the skill-based amusement machine for the play of which the card is awarded is located at a place where gasoline may not be legally distributed to the public or the card is not redeemable at the location of, or at the time of playing, the skill-based amusement machine.
- (2) A device shall not be considered a skill-based amusement machine and shall be considered a slot machine if it pays cash or one or more of the following apply:
- A. The ability of a player to succeed at the game is impacted by the number or ratio of prior wins to prior losses of players playing the game.
  - B. Any reward of redeemable vouchers is not based solely on the player achieving the object of the game or the player’s score;
  - C. The outcome of the game, or the value of the redeemable voucher or merchandise prize awarded for winning the game, can be controlled by a source other than any player playing the game.
  - D. The success of any player is or may be determined by a chance event that cannot be altered by player actions.

- E. The ability of any player to succeed at the game is determined by game features not visible or known to the player.
- F. The ability of the player to succeed at the game is impacted by the exercise of a skill that no reasonable player could exercise.
- (3) All of the following apply to any machine that is operated as described in subsection (uu)(1) of this section:
  - A. As used in subsection (uu) of this section, “game” and “play” mean one event from the initial activation of the machine until the results of play are determined without payment of additional consideration. An individual utilizing a machine that involves a single game, play, contest, competition or tournament may be awarded redeemable vouchers or merchandise prizes based on the results of play.
  - B. Advance play for a single game, play, contest, competition or tournament participation may be purchased. The cost of the contest, competition, or tournament participation may be greater than a single noncontest, competition or tournament play.
  - C. To the extent that the machine is used in a contest, competition or tournament, that contest, competition, or tournament has a defined starting and ending date and is open to participants in competition for scoring and ranking results toward the awarding of redeemable vouchers or merchandise prizes that are stated prior to the start of the contest, competition or tournament.
- (4) For purposes of subsection (uu)(1) of this section, the mere presence of a device, such as a pin-setting, ball-releasing, or scoring mechanism, that does not contribute to or affect the outcome of the play of the game does not make the device a skill-based amusement machine.
- (vv) “Merchandise prize” means any item of value, but shall not include any of the following:
  - (1) Cash, gift cards, or any equivalent thereof;
  - (2) Plays on games of chance, state lottery tickets, bingo, or instant bingo;
  - (3) Firearms, tobacco, or alcoholic beverages; or
  - (4) A redeemable voucher that is redeemable for any of the items listed in subsection (vv)(1), (2) or (3) of this section.
- (ww) “Redeemable voucher” means any ticket, token, coupon, receipt, or other noncash representation of value.
- (xx) “Pool not conducted for profit” means a scheme in which a participant gives a valuable consideration for a chance to win a prize and the total amount of consideration wagered is distributed to a participant or participants.
- (yy) “Sporting organization” means a hunting, fishing or trapping organization, other than a college or high school fraternity or sorority, that is not organized for profit, that is affiliated with a state or national sporting organization, including but not limited to, the league of Ohio sportsmen, and that has been in continuous existence in this State for a period of three years.
- (zz) “Community action agency” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 122.66.

- (aaa) (1) “Sweepstakes terminal device” means a mechanical, video, digital or electronic machine or device that is owned, leased or otherwise possessed by any person conducting a sweepstakes, or by that person’s partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, or contractors, that is intended to be used by a sweepstakes participant, and that is capable of displaying information on a screen or other mechanism. A device is a sweepstakes terminal device if any of the following apply:
- A. The device uses a simulated game terminal as a representation of the prizes associated with the results of the sweepstakes entries.
  - B. The device utilizes software such that the simulated game influences or determines the winning of or value of the prize.
  - C. The device selects prizes from a predetermined finite pool of entries.
  - D. The device utilizes a mechanism that reveals the content of a predetermined sweepstakes entry.
  - E. The device predetermines the prize results and stores those results for delivery at the time the sweepstakes entry results are revealed.
  - F. The device utilizes software to create a game result.
  - G. The device reveals the prize incrementally, even though the device does not influence the awarding of the prize or the value of any prize awarded.
  - H. The device determines and associates the prize with an entry or entries at the time the sweepstakes is entered.
- (2) As used in this subsection and in Section 517.02:
- A. “Enter” means the act by which a person becomes eligible to receive any prize offered in a sweepstakes.
  - B. “Entry” means one event from the initial activation of the sweepstakes terminal device until all of the sweepstakes prize results from that activation are revealed.
  - C. “Prize” means any gift, award, gratuity, good, service, credit, reward or any other thing of value that may be transferred to a person, whether possession of the prize is actually transferred, or placed on an account or other record as evidence of the intent to transfer the prize.
  - D. “Sweepstakes terminal device facility” means any location in this Municipality where a sweepstakes terminal device is provided to a sweepstakes participant, except as provided in Ohio R.C. 2915.02(G).

- (bbb) “Sweepstakes” means any game, contest, advertising scheme or plan, or other promotion where consideration is not required for a person to enter to win or become eligible to receive any prize, the determination of which is based upon chance. “Sweepstakes” does not include bingo as authorized under this chapter, pari-mutuel wagering as authorized by Ohio R.C. Chapter 3769, lotteries conducted by the State Lottery Commission as authorized by Ohio R.C. Chapter 3770, and casino gaming as authorized by Ohio R.C. Chapter 3772.  
(ORC 2915.01)

**517.02 GAMBLING.**

- (a) No person shall do any of the following:
- (1) Engage in bookmaking, or knowingly engage in conduct that facilitates bookmaking;
  - (2) Establish, promote, or operate or knowingly engage in conduct that facilitates any game of chance conducted for profit or any scheme of chance;
  - (3) Knowingly procure, transmit, exchange, or engage in conduct that facilitates the procurement, transmission, or exchange of information for use in establishing odds or determining winners in connection with bookmaking or with any game of chance conducted for profit or any scheme of chance;
  - (4) Engage in betting or in playing any scheme or game of chance as a substantial source of income or livelihood;
  - (5) Conduct, or participate in the conduct of, a sweepstakes with the use of a sweepstakes terminal device at a sweepstakes terminal device facility and either:
    - A. Give to another person any item described in subsection (vv)(1), (2), (3) or (4) of Section 517.01 as a prize for playing or participating in a sweepstakes; or
    - B. Give to another person any merchandise prize, or a redeemable voucher for a merchandise prize, the wholesale value of which is in excess of ten dollars and which is awarded as a single entry for playing or participating in a sweepstakes. Redeemable vouchers shall not be redeemable for a merchandise prize that has a wholesale value of more than ten dollars.
  - (6) Conduct, or participate in the conduct of, a sweepstakes with the use of a sweepstakes terminal device at a sweepstakes terminal device facility without first obtaining a current annual “certificate of registration” from the Attorney General as required by division (F) of Ohio R.C. 2915.02.

- (7) With purpose to violate subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of this section, acquire, possess, control, or operate any gambling device.

(b) For purposes of subsection (a)(1) of this section, a person facilitates bookmaking if the person in any way knowingly aids an illegal bookmaking operation, including, without limitation, placing a bet with a person engaged in or facilitating illegal bookmaking. For purposes of subsection (a)(2) of this section, a person facilitates a game of chance conducted for profit or a scheme of chance if the person in any way knowingly aids in the conduct or operation of any such game or scheme, including, without limitation, playing any such game or scheme.

(c) This section does not prohibit conduct in connection with gambling expressly permitted by law.

- (d) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Games of chance, if all of the following apply:

- A. The games of chance are not craps for money or roulette for money.
- B. The games of chance are conducted by a charitable organization that is, and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect, stating that the organization is, exempt from Federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- C. The games of chance are conducted at festivals of the charitable organization that are conducted not more than a total of five days a calendar year, and are conducted on premises owned by the charitable organization for a period of no less than one year immediately preceding the conducting of the games of chance, on premises leased from a governmental unit, or on premises that are leased from a veteran's or fraternal organization and that have been owned by the lessor veteran's or fraternal organization for a period of no less than one year immediately preceding the conducting of the games of chance.

A charitable organization shall not lease premises from a veteran's or fraternal organization to conduct a festival described in subsection (d)(1)C. hereof if the veteran's or fraternal organization has already leased the premises twelve times during the preceding year to charitable organizations for that purpose. If a charitable organization leases premises from a veteran's or fraternal organization to conduct a festival described in subsection (d)(1)C. hereof, the charitable organization shall not pay a rental rate for the premises per day of the festival that exceeds the rental rate per bingo session that a charitable organization may pay under Section 517.06(b)(1) when it leases premises from another charitable organization to conduct bingo games.

- D. All of the money or assets received from the games of chance after deduction only of prizes paid out during the conduct of the games of chance are used by, or given, donated or otherwise transferred to, any organization that is described in subsection 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is either a governmental unit or an organization that is tax exempt under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- E. The games of chance are not conducted during, or within ten hours of, a bingo game conducted for amusement purposes only pursuant to Section 517.13.

No person shall receive any commission, wage, salary, reward, tip, donations, gratuity or other form of compensation, directly or indirectly, for operating or assisting in the operation of any game of chance.

- (2) Any tag fishing tournament operated under a permit issued under Ohio R.C. 1533.92, as "tag fishing tournament" is defined in Ohio R.C. 1531.01.
- (3) Bingo conducted by a charitable organization that holds a license issued under Ohio R.C. 2915.08.

(e) Subsection (d) hereof shall not be construed to authorize the sale, lease or other temporary or permanent transfer of the right to conduct games of chance, as granted by subsection (d) hereof, by any charitable organization that is granted that right.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of gambling, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a gambling offense, gambling is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2915.02)

### **517.03 OPERATING A GAMBLING HOUSE.**

(a) No person, being the owner or lessee, or having custody, control or supervision of premises, shall:

- (1) Use or occupy such premises for gambling in violation of Section 517.02;
- (2) Recklessly permit such premises to be used or occupied for gambling in violation of Section 517.02.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of operating a gambling house, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a gambling offense, operating a gambling house is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(c) Premises used or occupied in violation of this section constitute a nuisance subject to abatement pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 3767. (ORC 2915.03)

#### **517.04 PUBLIC GAMING.**

(a) No person, while at a hotel, restaurant, tavern, store, arena, hall, or other place of public accommodation, business, amusement, or resort shall make a bet or play any game of chance or scheme of chance.

(b) No person, being the owner or lessee, or having custody, control, or supervision, of a hotel, restaurant, tavern, store, arena, hall, or other place of public accommodation, business, amusement, or resort shall recklessly permit those premises to be used or occupied in violation of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not prohibit conduct in connection with gambling expressly permitted by law.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of public gaming. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, public gaming is a minor misdemeanor. If the offender previously has been convicted of any gambling offense, public gaming is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(e) Premises used or occupied in violation of subsection (b) of this section constitute a nuisance subject to abatement under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3767. (ORC 2915.04)

#### **517.05 CHEATING.**

(a) No person, with purpose to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, shall engage in conduct designed to corrupt the outcome of any of the following:

- (1) The subject of a bet;
- (2) A contest of knowledge, skill, or endurance that is not an athletic or sporting event;
- (3) A scheme or game of chance;
- (4) Bingo.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of cheating. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection cheating is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the potential gain from the cheating is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, or if the offender previously has been convicted of any gambling offense or of any theft offense as defined in Ohio R.C. 2913.01, cheating is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2915.05)

**517.06 METHODS OF CONDUCTING A BINGO GAME; PROHIBITIONS.**

(a) No charitable organization that conducts bingo shall fail to do any of the following:

- (1) Own all of the equipment used to conduct bingo or lease that equipment from a charitable organization that is licensed to conduct bingo, or from the landlord of a premises where bingo is conducted, for a rental rate that is not more than is customary and reasonable for that equipment;
- (2) Use, or give, donate, or otherwise transfer, all of the net profit derived from bingo, other than instant bingo, for a charitable purpose listed in its license application and described in Section 517.01(v), or distribute all of the net profit from the proceeds of the sale of instant bingo as stated in its license application and in accordance with Ohio R.C. 2915.101.

(b) No charitable organization that conducts a bingo game described in Section 517.01(o)(1) shall fail to do any of the following:

- (1) Conduct the bingo game on premises that are owned by the charitable organization, on premises that are owned by another charitable organization and leased from that charitable organization for a rental rate not in excess of the lesser of six hundred dollars (\$600.00) per bingo session or forty-five per cent of the gross receipts of the bingo session, on premises that are leased from a person other than a charitable organization for a rental rate that is not more than is customary and reasonable for premises that are similar in location, size, and quality but not in excess of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per bingo session, or on premises that are owned by a person other than a charitable organization, that are leased from that person by another charitable organization, and that are subleased from that other charitable organization by the charitable organization for a rental rate not in excess of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per bingo session. No charitable organization is required to pay property taxes or assessments on premises that the charitable organization leases from another person to conduct bingo sessions. If the charitable organization leases from a person other than a charitable organization the premises on which it conducts bingo sessions, the lessor of the premises shall provide the premises to the organization and shall not provide the organization with bingo game operators, security personnel, concessions or concession operators, bingo supplies, or any other type of service. A charitable organization shall not lease or sublease premises that it owns or leases to more than three other charitable organizations per calendar week for conducting bingo sessions on the premises. A person that is not a charitable organization shall not lease premises that it owns, leases, or otherwise is empowered to lease to more than three charitable organizations per calendar week for conducting bingo sessions on the premises. In no case shall more than nine bingo sessions be conducted on any premises in any calendar week.
- (2) Display its license conspicuously at the premises where the bingo session is conducted;
- (3) Conduct the bingo session in accordance with the definition of bingo set forth in Section 517.01(o)(1).



(c) No charitable organization that conducts a bingo game described in Section 517.01(o)(1) shall do any of the following:

- (1) Pay any compensation to a bingo game operator for operating a bingo session that is conducted by the charitable organization or for preparing, selling, or serving food or beverages at the site of the bingo session, permit any auxiliary unit or society of the charitable organization to pay compensation to any bingo game operator who prepares, sells, or serves food or beverages at a bingo session conducted by the charitable organization, or permit any auxiliary unit or society of the charitable organization to prepare, sell, or serve food or beverages at a bingo session conducted by the charitable organization, if the auxiliary unit or society pays any compensation to the bingo game operators who prepare, sell, or serve the food or beverages;
- (2) Pay consulting fees to any person for any services performed in relation to the bingo session;
- (3) Pay concession fees to any person who provides refreshments to the participants in the bingo session;
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(4) of this section, conduct more than three bingo sessions in any seven-day period. A volunteer firefighter's organization or a volunteer rescue service organization that conducts not more than five bingo sessions in a calendar year may conduct more than three bingo sessions in a seven-day period after notifying the Attorney General when it will conduct the sessions;
- (5) Pay out more than six thousand dollars (\$6,000) in prizes for bingo games described in Section 517.01(o)(1) during any bingo session that is conducted by the charitable organization. "Prizes" does not include awards from the conduct of instant bingo;
- (6) Conduct a bingo session at any time during the eight-hour period between two a.m. and ten a.m., at any time during, or within ten hours of, a bingo game conducted for amusement only pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2915.12, at any premises not specified on its license, or on any day of the week or during any time period not specified on its license. Subsection (c)(6) of this section does not prohibit the sale of instant bingo tickets beginning at nine a.m. for a bingo session that begins at ten a.m. If circumstances make it impractical for the charitable organization to conduct a bingo session at the premises, or on the day of the week or at the time, specified on its license or if a charitable organization wants to conduct bingo sessions on a day of the week or at a time other than the day or time specified on its license, the charitable organization may apply in writing to the Attorney General for an amended license, pursuant to division (F) of Ohio R.C. 2915.08. A charitable organization may apply twice in each calendar year for an amended license to conduct bingo sessions on a day of the week or at a time other than the day or time specified on its license. If the amended license is granted, the organization may conduct bingo sessions at the premises, on the day of the week, and at the time specified on its amended license;
- (7) Permit any person whom the charitable organization knows, or should have known, is under the age of eighteen to work as a bingo game operator;
- (8) Permit any person whom the charitable organization knows, or should have known, has been convicted of a felony or gambling offense in any jurisdiction to be a bingo game operator;

- (9) Permit the lessor of the premises on which the bingo session is conducted, if the lessor is not a charitable organization, to provide the charitable organization with bingo game operators, security personnel, concessions, bingo supplies, or any other type of service;
- (10) Purchase or lease bingo supplies from any person except a distributor issued a license under Ohio R.C. 2915.081;
- (11) A. Use or permit the use of electronic bingo aids except under the following circumstances:
1. For any single participant, not more than ninety bingo faces can be played using an electronic bingo aid or aids.
  2. The charitable organization shall provide a participant using an electronic bingo aid with corresponding paper bingo cards or sheets.
  3. The total price of bingo faces played with an electronic bingo aid shall be equal to the total price of the same number of bingo faces played with a paper bingo card or sheet sold at the same bingo session but without an electronic bingo aid.
  4. An electronic bingo aid cannot be part of an electronic network other than a network that includes only bingo aids and devices that are located on the premises at which the bingo is being conducted or be interactive with any device not located on the premises at which the bingo is being conducted.
  5. An electronic bingo aid cannot be used to participate in bingo that is conducted at a location other than the location at which the bingo session is conducted and at which the electronic bingo aid is used.
  6. An electronic bingo aid cannot be used to provide for the input of numbers and letters announced by a bingo caller other than the bingo caller who physically calls the numbers and letters at the location at which the bingo session is conducted and at which the electronic bingo aid is used.
- B. The Attorney General may adopt rules in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 119 that govern the use of electronic bingo aids. The rules may include a requirement that an electronic bingo aid be capable of being audited by the Attorney General to verify the number of bingo cards or sheets played during each bingo session.
- (12) Permit any person the charitable organization knows, or should have known, to be under eighteen years of age to play bingo described in Section 517.01(o)(1).
- (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(3) hereof, no charitable organization shall provide to a bingo game operator, and no bingo game operator shall receive or accept, any commission, wage, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity, or other form of compensation, directly or indirectly, regardless of the source, for conducting bingo or providing other work or labor at the site of bingo during a bingo session.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(3) hereof, no charitable organization shall provide to a bingo game operator any commission, wage, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity, or other form of compensation, directly or indirectly, regardless of the source, for conducting instant bingo other than at a bingo session at the site of instant bingo other than at a bingo session.

- (3) Nothing in subsection (d) hereof prohibits an employee of a fraternal organization, veteran's organization, or sporting organization from selling instant bingo tickets or cards to the organization's members or invited guests, as long as no portion of the employee's compensation is paid from any receipts of bingo.

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (b)(1) of this section, a charitable organization that, prior to December 6, 1977, has entered into written agreements for the lease of premises it owns to another charitable organization or other charitable organizations for the conducting of bingo sessions so that more than two bingo sessions are conducted per calendar week on the premises, and a person that is not a charitable organization and that, prior to December 6, 1977, has entered into written agreements for the lease of premises it owns to charitable organizations for the conducting of more than two bingo sessions per calendar week on the premises, may continue to lease the premises to those charitable organizations, provided that no more than four sessions are conducted per calendar week, that the lessor organization or person has notified the Attorney General in writing of the organizations that will conduct the sessions and the days of the week and the times of the day on which the sessions will be conducted, that the initial lease entered into with each organization that will conduct the sessions was filed with the Attorney General prior to December 6, 1977, and that each organization that will conduct the sessions was issued a license to conduct bingo games by the Attorney General prior to December 6, 1977.

(f) This section does not prohibit a bingo licensed charitable organization or a game operator from giving any person an instant bingo ticket as a prize.

(g) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (a)(1) or (2), (b)(1), (2), or (3), (c)(1) to (11) or (d) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (2), (b)(1), (2) or (3), (c)(1) to (11), or (d) of this section, a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (2), (b)(1), (2) or (3) or (c)(1) to (11) or (d) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Whoever violates subsection (c)(12) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (c)(12) of this section, a violation of subsection (c)(12) is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(ORC 2915.09)

#### **517.07 INSTANT BINGO CONDUCT.**

- (a) No charitable organization that conducts instant bingo shall do any of the following:
  - (1) Fail to comply with the requirements of divisions (A)(1), (2), and (3) of Ohio R.C. 2915.09;
  - (2) Conduct instant bingo unless either of the following applies:
    - A. That organization is, and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect stating that the organization is, exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a), is described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, is a charitable organization as defined in Section 517.01, is in good standing in the State pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2915.08, and is in compliance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 1716;
    - B. That organization is, and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect stating that the organization is, exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a), is described in subsection 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), or 501(c)(19) or is a veteran's organization described in subsection 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, and conducts instant bingo under Section 517.14.

- (3) Conduct instant bingo on any day, at any time, or at any premises not specified on the organization's license issued pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2915.08;
- (4) Permit any person whom the organization knows or should have known has been convicted of a felony or gambling offense in any jurisdiction to be a bingo game operator in the conduct of instant bingo;
- (5) Purchase or lease supplies used to conduct instant bingo or punch board games from any person except a distributor licensed under Ohio R.C. 2915.081;
- (6) Sell or provide any instant bingo ticket or card for a price different from the price printed on it by the manufacturer on either the instant bingo ticket or card or on the game flare;
- (7) Sell an instant bingo ticket or card to a person under eighteen years of age;
- (8) Fail to keep unsold instant bingo tickets or cards for less than three years;
- (9) Pay any compensation to a bingo game operator for conducting instant bingo that is conducted by the organization or for preparing, selling, or serving food or beverages at the site of the instant bingo game, permit any auxiliary unit or society of the organization to pay compensation to any bingo game operator who prepares, sells, or serves food or beverages at an instant bingo game conducted by the organization, or permit any auxiliary unit or society of the organization to prepare, sell, or serve food or beverages at an instant bingo game conducted by the organization, if the auxiliary unit or society pays any compensation to the bingo game operators who prepare, sell, or serve the food or beverages;
- (10) Pay fees to any person for any services performed in relation to an instant bingo game, except as provided in Section 517.09(d);
- (11) Pay fees to any person who provides refreshments to the participants in an instant bingo game;
- (12)
  - A. Allow instant bingo tickets or cards to be sold to bingo game operators at a premises at which the organization sells instant bingo tickets or cards or to be sold to employees of a D permit holder who are working at a premises at which instant bingo tickets or cards are sold;
  - B. Subsection (a)(12)A. of this section does not prohibit a licensed charitable organization or a bingo game operator from giving any person an instant bingo ticket as a prize in place of a cash prize won by a participant in an instant bingo game. In no case shall an instant bingo ticket or card be sold or provided for a price different from the price printed on it by the manufacturer on either the instant bingo ticket or card or on the game flare.
- (13) Fail to display its bingo license, and the serial numbers of the deal of instant bingo tickets or cards to be sold, conspicuously at each premises at which it sells instant bingo tickets or cards;
- (14) Possess a deal of instant bingo tickets or cards that was not purchased from a distributor licensed under Ohio R.C. 2915.081 as reflected on an invoice issued by the distributor that contains all of the information required by Section 517.11(f);
- (15) Fail, once it opens a deal of instant bingo tickets or cards, to continue to sell the tickets or cards in that deal until the tickets or cards with the top two highest tiers of prizes in that deal are sold;
- (16) Possess bingo supplies that were not obtained in accordance with Ohio R.C. 2915.01 to 2915.13.

(b) A charitable organization may purchase, lease, or use instant bingo ticket dispensers to sell instant bingo tickets or cards.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section or a rule adopted under Ohio R.C. 2915.091(C) is guilty of illegal instant bingo conduct. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, illegal instant bingo conduct is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this section or of such a rule, illegal instant bingo conduct is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2915.091)

#### **517.08 RAFFLES.**

- (a) (1) Subject to subsection (a)(2) of this section, a charitable organization, a public school, a chartered nonpublic school, a community school, or a veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and is described in subsection 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(7), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code may conduct a raffle to raise money for the organization or school and does not need a license to conduct bingo in order to conduct a raffle drawing that is not for profit.
- (2) If a charitable organization that is described in subsection (a)(1) of this section, but that is not also described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, conducts a raffle, the charitable organization shall distribute at least fifty per cent of the net profit from the raffle to a charitable purpose described in Section 517.01(v) or to a department or agency of the federal government, the state, or any political subdivision.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, no person shall conduct a raffle drawing that is for profit or a raffle drawing that is not for profit.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of illegal conduct of a raffle. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, illegal conduct of a raffle is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (b) of this section, illegal conduct of a raffle is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2915.092)

#### **517.09 CHARITABLE INSTANT BINGO ORGANIZATIONS.**

(a) As used in this section, "retail income from all commercial activity" means the income that a person receives from the provision of goods, services, or activities that are provided at the location where instant bingo other than at a bingo session is conducted, including the sale of instant bingo tickets. A religious organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, at not more than one location at which it conducts its charitable programs, may include donations from its members and guests as retail income.

- (b) (1) If a charitable instant bingo organization conducts instant bingo other than at a bingo session, the charitable instant bingo organization shall enter into a written contract with the owner or lessor of the location at which the instant bingo is conducted to allow the owner or lessor to assist in the conduct of instant bingo other than at a bingo session, identify each location where the instant bingo other than at a bingo session is being conducted, and identify the owner or lessor of each location.

- (2) A charitable instant bingo organization that conducts instant bingo other than at a bingo session is not required to enter into a written contract with the owner or lessor of the location at which the instant bingo is conducted provided that the owner or lessor is not assisting in the conduct of the instant bingo other than at a bingo session and provided that the conduct of the instant bingo other than at a bingo session at that location is not more than five days per calendar year and not more than ten hours per day.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, no charitable instant bingo organization shall conduct instant bingo other than at a bingo session at a location where the primary source of retail income from all commercial activity at that location is the sale of instant bingo tickets.

(d) The owner or lessor of a location that enters into a contract pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall pay the full gross profit to the charitable instant bingo organization, in return for the deal of instant bingo tickets. The owner or lessor may retain the money that the owner or lessor receives for selling the instant bingo tickets, provided, however, that after the deal has been sold, the owner or lessor shall pay to the charitable instant bingo organization the value of any unredeemed instant bingo prizes remaining in the deal of instant bingo tickets.

The charitable instant bingo organization shall pay six per cent of the total gross receipts of any deal of instant bingo tickets for the purpose of reimbursing the owner or lessor for expenses described in this subsection.

As used in this subsection, "expenses" means those items provided for in subsections (gg)(4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (12) and (13) of Section 517.01 and that percentage of the owner's or lessor's rent for the location where instant bingo is conducted. "Expenses" in the aggregate, shall not exceed six per cent of the total gross receipts of any deal of instant bingo tickets.

As used in this subsection, "full gross profit" means the amount by which the total receipts of all instant bingo tickets, if the deal had been sold in full, exceeds the amount that would be paid out if all prizes were redeemed.

(e) A charitable instant bingo organization shall provide the Attorney General with all of the following information:

- (1) That the charitable instant bingo organization has terminated a contract entered into pursuant to subsection (b) of this section with an owner or lessor of a location;
- (2) That the charitable instant bingo organization has entered into a written contract pursuant to subsection (b) of this section with a new owner or lessor of a location;
- (3) That the charitable instant bingo organization is aware of conduct by the owner or lessor of a location at which instant bingo is conducted that is in violation of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2915.

(f) Subsection (c) of this section does not apply to a volunteer firefighter's organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, that conducts instant bingo other than at a bingo session on the premises where the organization conducts firefighter training, that has conducted instant bingo continuously for at least five years prior to July 1, 2003, and that, during each of those five years, had gross receipts of at least one million five hundred thousand dollars. (ORC 2915.093)

**517.10 LOCATION OF INSTANT BINGO.**

(a) No owner or lessor of a location shall assist a charitable instant bingo organization in the conduct of instant bingo other than at a bingo session at that location unless the owner or lessor has entered into a written contract, as described in Section 517.09, with the charitable instant bingo organization to assist in the conduct of instant bingo other than at a bingo session.

(b) The location of the lessor or owner shall be designated as a location where the charitable instant bingo organization conducts instant bingo other than at a bingo session.

(c) No owner or lessor of a location that enters into a written contract as prescribed in subsection (a) of this section shall violate any provision of Ohio R.C. Chapter 2915, or permit, aid, or abet any other person in violating any provision of Ohio R.C. Chapter 2915.

(d) No owner or lessor of a location that enters into a written contract as prescribed in subsection (a) of this section shall violate the terms of the contract.

- (e) (1) Whoever violates subsection (c) or (d) of this section is guilty of illegal instant bingo conduct. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, illegal instant bingo conduct is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section, illegal instant bingo conduct is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
- (2) If an owner or lessor of a location knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly violates subsection (c) or (d) of this section, any license that the owner or lessor holds for the retail sale of any goods on the owner's or lessor's premises that is issued by the State or a political subdivision is subject to suspension, revocation, or payment of a monetary penalty at the request of the Attorney General. (ORC 2915.094)

**517.11 BINGO OR GAME OF CHANCE RECORDS.**

(a) No charitable organization that conducts bingo or a game of chance pursuant to Section 517.02(d), shall fail to maintain the following records for at least three years from the date on which the bingo or game of chance is conducted:

- (1) An itemized list of the gross receipts of each bingo session, each game of instant bingo by serial number, each raffle, each punch board game, and each game of chance, and an itemized list of the gross profits of each game of instant bingo by serial number;
- (2) An itemized list of all expenses, other than prizes, that are incurred in conducting bingo or instant bingo, the name of each person to whom the expenses are paid, and a receipt for all of the expenses;
- (3) A list of all prizes awarded during each bingo session, each raffle, each punch board game, and each game of chance conducted by the charitable organization, the total prizes awarded from each game of instant bingo by serial number, and the name, address, and social security number of all persons who are winners of prizes of six hundred dollars (\$600.00) or more in value;
- (4) An itemized list of the recipients of the net profit of the bingo or game of chance, including the name and address of each recipient to whom the money is distributed, and if the organization uses the net profit of bingo, or the money or assets received from a game of chance, for any charitable or other purpose set forth in Section 517.01(v), Section 517.02(d), or Ohio R.C. 2915.101, a list of each purpose and an itemized list of each expenditure for each purpose;

- (5) The number of persons who participate in any bingo session or game of chance that is conducted by the charitable organization;
- (6) A list of receipts from the sale of food and beverages by the charitable organization or one of its auxiliary units or societies, if the receipts were excluded from "gross receipts" Section 517.01(t);
- (7) An itemized list of all expenses incurred at each bingo session, each raffle, each punch board game, or each game of instant bingo conducted by the charitable organization in the sale of food and beverages by the charitable organization or by an auxiliary unit or society of the charitable organization, the name of each person to whom the expenses are paid, and a receipt for all of the expenses.

(b) A charitable organization shall keep the records that it is required to maintain pursuant to subsection (a) of this section at its principal place of business in this State or at its headquarters in this State and shall notify the Attorney General of the location at which those records are kept.

(c) The gross profit from each bingo session or game described in Section 517.01(o)(1) or (2) shall be deposited into a checking account devoted exclusively to the bingo session or game. Payments for allowable expenses incurred in conducting the bingo session or game and payments to recipients of some or all of the net profit of the bingo session or game shall be made only by checks or electronic fund transfers drawn on the bingo session or game account.

(d) Each charitable organization shall conduct and record an inventory of all of its bingo supplies as of the first day of November of each year.

(e) The Attorney General may adopt rules in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 119 that establish standards of accounting, record keeping, and reporting to ensure that gross receipts from bingo or games of chance are properly accounted for.

(f) A distributor shall maintain, for a period of three years after the date of its sale or other provision, a record of each instance of its selling or otherwise providing to another person bingo supplies for use in this State. The record shall include all of the following for each instance:

- (1) The name of the manufacturer from which the distributor purchased the bingo supplies and the date of the purchase;
- (2) The name and address of the charitable organization or other distributor to which the bingo supplies were sold or otherwise provided;
- (3) A description that clearly identifies the bingo supplies;
- (4) Invoices that include the nonrepeating serial numbers of all paper bingo cards and sheets and all instant bingo deals sold or otherwise provided to each charitable organization.

(g) A manufacturer shall maintain, for a period of three years after the date of its sale or other provision, a record of each instance of its selling or otherwise providing bingo supplies for use in this State. The record shall include all of the following for each instance:

- (1) The name and address of the distributor to whom the bingo supplies were sold or otherwise provided;
- (2) A description that clearly identifies the bingo supplies, including serial numbers;
- (3) Invoices that include the nonrepeating serial numbers of all paper bingo cards and sheets and all instant bingo deals sold or otherwise provided to each distributor.



- (h) The Attorney General, or any law enforcement agency, may do all of the following:
- (1) Investigate any charitable organization or any officer, agent, trustee, member, or employee of the organization;
  - (2) Examine the accounts and records of the organization;
  - (3) Conduct inspections, audits, and observations of bingo or games of chance;
  - (4) Conduct inspections of the premises where bingo or games of chance are conducted;
  - (5) Take any other necessary and reasonable action to determine if a violation of any provision of this chapter has occurred and to determine whether Section 517.12 has been complied with.

If any law enforcement agency has reasonable grounds to believe that a charitable organization or an officer, agent, trustee, member, or employee of the organization has violated any provision of this chapter, the law enforcement agency may proceed by action in the proper court to enforce this chapter, provided that the law enforcement agency shall give written notice to the Attorney General when commencing an action as described in this subsection.

(i) No person shall destroy, alter, conceal, withhold, or deny access to any accounts or records of a charitable organization that have been requested for examination, or obstruct, impede, or interfere with any inspection, audit, or observation of bingo or a game of chance or premises where bingo or a game of chance is conducted, or refuse to comply with any reasonable request of, or obstruct, impede, or interfere with any other reasonable action undertaken by, the Attorney General or a law enforcement agency pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

(j) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (i) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2915.10)

#### **517.12 BINGO OPERATOR PROHIBITIONS.**

(a) No person shall be a bingo game operator unless he is eighteen years of age or older.

(b) No person who has been convicted of a felony or a gambling offense in any jurisdiction shall be a bingo game operator.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(d) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2915.11)

#### **517.13 BINGO EXCEPTIONS.**

(a) Ohio R.C. 2915.07 to 2915.11 or Section 517.06 et seq. of this chapter do not apply to bingo games that are conducted for the purpose of amusement only. A bingo game is conducted for the purpose of amusement only if it complies with all of the requirements specified in either subsection (a)(1) or (2) hereof:

- (1) A. The participants do not pay any money or any other thing of value including an admission fee, or any fee for bingo cards, sheets, objects to cover the spaces or other devices used in playing bingo, for the privilege of participating in the bingo game or to defray any costs of the game, or pay tips or make donations during or immediately before or after the bingo game.

- B. All prizes awarded during the course of the game are nonmonetary, and in the form of merchandise, goods or entitlements to goods or services only, and the total value of all prizes awarded during the game is less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
  - C. No commission, wages, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity or other form of compensation, either directly or indirectly, and regardless of the source, is paid to any bingo game operator for work or labor performed at the site of the bingo game.
  - D. The bingo game is not conducted either during or within ten hours of any of the following:
    - 1. A bingo session during which a charitable bingo game is conducted pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2915.07 to 2915.11 or Section 517.06 et seq. of this chapter;
    - 2. A scheme or game of chance or bingo described in Section 517.01(o)(2).
  - E. The number of players participating in the bingo game does not exceed fifty.
- (2)
- A. The participants do not pay money or any other thing of value as an admission fee, and no participant is charged more than twenty-five cents (25¢) to purchase a bingo card or sheet, objects to cover the spaces or other devices used in playing bingo.
  - B. The total amount of money paid by all of the participants for bingo cards or sheets, objects to cover the spaces or other devices used in playing bingo does not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
  - C. All of the money paid for bingo cards or sheets, objects to cover spaces or other devices used in playing bingo is used only to pay winners monetary and nonmonetary prizes and to provide refreshments.
  - D. The total value of all prizes awarded during the game does not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
  - E. No commission, wages, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity or other form of compensation, either directly or indirectly, and regardless of the source, is paid to any bingo game operator for work or labor performed at the site of the bingo game.
  - F. The bingo game is not conducted during or within ten hours of either of the following:
    - 1. A bingo session during which a charitable bingo game is conducted pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2915.07 to 2915.11 or Section 517.06 et seq. of this chapter;
    - 2. A scheme of chance or game of chance or bingo described in Section 517.01(o)(2).
  - G. All of the participants reside at the premises where the bingo game is conducted.
  - H. The bingo games are conducted on different days of the week and not more than twice in a calendar week.

(b) The Attorney General, or any local law enforcement agency, may investigate the conduct of a bingo game that purportedly is conducted for purposes of amusement only if there is reason to believe that the purported amusement bingo game does not comply with subsection (a) hereof. A local law enforcement agency may proceed by action in the proper court to enforce this section if the local law enforcement agency gives written notice to the Attorney General when commencing the action. (ORC 2915.12)

**517.14 INSTANT BINGO CONDUCT BY A VETERAN'S OR FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION.**

(a) A veteran's organization, a fraternal organization, or a sporting organization authorized to conduct a bingo session pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2915.01 to 2915.12 may conduct instant bingo other than at a bingo session if all of the following apply:

- (1) The veteran's organization, fraternal organization or sporting organization limits the sale of instant bingo to twelve hours during any day, provided that the sale does not begin earlier than ten a.m. and ends not later than two a.m.
- (2) The veteran's organization, fraternal organization or a sporting organization limits the sale of instant bingo to its own premises and to its own members and invited guests.
- (3) The veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization is raising money for an organization that is described in subsection 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), or 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is either a governmental unit or an organization that maintains its principal place of business in this State, that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and that is in good standing in this State and executes a written contract with that organization as required in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) If a veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization authorized to conduct instant bingo pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is raising money for another organization that is described in subsection 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), or 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is either a governmental unit or an organization that maintains its principal place of business in this State, that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and that is in good standing in this State, the veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization shall execute a written contract with the organization that is described in subsection 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), or 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is either a governmental unit or an organization that maintains its principal place of business in this State, that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and that is in good standing in this State in order to conduct instant bingo. That contract shall include a statement of the percentage of the net proceeds that the veteran's, fraternal or sporting organization will be distributing to the organization that is described in subsection 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2) or 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is either a governmental unit or an organization that maintains its principal place of business in this State, that is exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and that is in good standing in this State.

- (c) (1) If a veteran's organization, fraternal organization or a sporting organization authorized to conduct instant bingo pursuant to subsection (a) of this section has been issued a liquor permit under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4303, that permit may be subject to suspension, revocation, or cancellation if the veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or a sporting organization violates a provision of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2915.
- (2) No veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or a sporting organization that enters into a written contract pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall violate any provision of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2915, or permit, aid, or abet any other person in violating any provision of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2915.

(d) A veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or a sporting organization shall give all required proceeds earned from the conduct of instant bingo to the organization with which the veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or a sporting organization has entered into a written contract.

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of illegal instant bingo conduct. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, illegal instant bingo conduct is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of this section, illegal instant bingo conduct is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(ORC 2915.13)

#### **517.15 SKILL-BASED AMUSEMENT MACHINES.**

- (a) (1) No person shall give to another person any item described in Section 517.01(vv)(1), (2), (3), or (4) in exchange for a noncash prize, toy, or novelty received as a reward for playing or operating a skill-based amusement machine or for a free or reduced-prize game won on a skill-based amusement machine.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (a)(1) of this section is guilty of skill-based amusement machine prohibited conduct. Except as provided herein, a violation of subsection (a)(1) is a misdemeanor of the first degree for each redemption of a prize that is involved in the violation. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (a)(1), a violation of subsection (a)(1) is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(ORC 2915.06)

(b) Any regulation of skill-based amusement machines shall be governed by this chapter and Ohio R.C. Chapter 2915 and not by Ohio R.C. Chapter 1345.  
(ORC 2915.061)

#### **517.16 SWEEPSTAKES TERMINALS.**

- (a) No person conducting a sweepstakes with the use of a sweepstakes terminal device, including the entry process or the reveal of a prize, shall do either of the following:
  - (1) Give to another person any item or voucher redeemable for any item described in Section 517.01(bbb)(1), (2), (3), or (4) as a prize for playing or participating in a sweepstakes;
  - (2) Conduct a sweepstakes through the use of a sweepstakes terminal device.

(b) Whoever violates subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section is guilty of sweepstakes terminal device prohibited conduct. A violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree for each redemption of a prize that is involved in the violation. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section, a violation of that subsection (a)(1) is a felony of the fifth degree for each redemption of a prize that is involved in the violation and shall be prosecuted under applicable State law.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of conducting an illegal sweepstakes. A violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section, a violation of that subsection (a)(2) is a felony of the fifth degree for violation and shall be prosecuted under applicable State law.  
(Ord. 1826-12. Passed 2-9-12.)

**517.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)



**CHAPTER 521**  
**Health, Safety and Sanitation**

<p><b>521.01</b> Abandoned refrigerators and airtight containers.</p> <p><b>521.02</b> Venting of heaters and burners.</p> <p><b>521.03</b> Barricades and warning lights; abandoned excavations.</p> <p><b>521.04</b> Sidewalk obstructions; damage or injury.</p> <p><b>521.05</b> Notice to fill lots, remove putrid substances.</p>	<p><b>521.06</b> Sidewalk snow and ice removal.</p> <p><b>521.07</b> Fences.</p> <p><b>521.08</b> Littering and deposit of garbage, rubbish, junk, etc.</p> <p><b>521.09</b> Noxious or offensive odors.</p> <p><b>521.10</b> Nonsmoking areas in places of public assembly.</p> <p><b>521.99</b> Penalty.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law

Flagpole installation in sidewalk - see Ohio R.C. 723.012

Excavation liability - see Ohio R.C. 723.49 et seq.

Removal of noxious weeds or litter - see Ohio R.C. 731.51 et seq.

Nuisances - see Ohio R.C. Ch. 3767

Tampering with safety devices - see GEN. OFF. 541.04

**521.01 ABANDONED REFRIGERATORS AND AIRTIGHT CONTAINERS.**

(a) No person shall abandon, discard, or knowingly permit to remain on premises under his control, in a place accessible to children, any abandoned or discarded icebox, refrigerator or other airtight or semi-irtight container which has a capacity of one and one-half cubic feet or more and an opening of fifty square inches or more and which has a door or lid equipped with hinge, latch or other fastening device capable of securing such door or lid, without rendering such equipment harmless to human life by removing such hinges, latches or other hardware which may cause a person to be confined therein. This section shall not apply to an icebox, refrigerator or other airtight or semi-irtight container located in that part of a building occupied by a dealer, warehouseman or repairman. (ORC 3767.29)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

**521.02 VENTING OF HEATERS AND BURNERS.**

(a) A brazier, salamander, space heater, room heater, furnace, water heater or other burner or heater using wood, coal, coke, fuel oil, kerosene, gasoline, natural gas, liquid petroleum gas or similar fuel, and tending to give off carbon monoxide or other harmful gas:

- (1) When used in living quarters, or in any enclosed building or space in which persons are usually present, shall be used with a flue or vent so designed, installed and maintained as to vent the products of combustion outdoors; except in storage, factory or industrial buildings which are provided with sufficient ventilation to avoid the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning;
- (2) When used as a portable or temporary burner or heater at a construction site, or in a warehouse, shed or structure in which persons are temporarily present, shall be vented as provided in subsection (a) hereof, or used with sufficient ventilation to avoid the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

(b) This section does not apply to domestic ranges, laundry stoves, gas logs installed in a fireplace with an adequate flue, or hot plates, unless the same are used as space or room heaters.

(c) No person shall negligently use, or, being the owner, person in charge, or occupant of premises, negligently permit the use of a burner or heater in violation of the standards for venting and ventilation provided in this section.

(d) Subsection (a) hereof does not apply to any kerosene-fired space or room heater that is equipped with an automatic extinguishing tip-over device, or to any natural gas-fired or liquid petroleum gas-fired space or room heater that is equipped with an oxygen depletion safety shutoff system, and that has its fuel piped from a source outside of the building in which it is located, that are approved by an authoritative source recognized by the State Fire Marshal in the State Fire Code adopted by him under Ohio R.C. 3737.82.

(e) The State Fire Marshal may make rules to ensure the safe use of unvented kerosene, natural gas or liquid petroleum gas heaters exempted from subsection (a) hereof when used in assembly buildings, business buildings, high hazard buildings, institutional buildings, mercantile buildings and type R-1 and R-2 residential buildings, as these groups of buildings are defined in rules adopted by the Board of Building Standards under Ohio R.C. 3781.10. No person shall negligently use, or, being the owner, person in charge or occupant of premises, negligently permit the use of a heater in violation of any rules adopted under this subsection.

(f) The State Fire Marshal may make rules prescribing standards for written instructions containing ventilation requirements and warning of any potential fire hazards that may occur in using a kerosene, natural gas, or liquid petroleum gas heater. No person shall sell or offer for sale any kerosene, natural gas or liquid petroleum gas heater unless the manufacturer provides with the heater written instructions that comply with any rules adopted under this subsection.

(g) No product labeled as a fuel additive for kerosene heaters and having a flash point below one hundred degrees fahrenheit or thirty-seven and eight-tenths degrees centigrade shall be sold, offered for sale or used in any kerosene space heater.



(h) No device that prohibits any safety feature on a kerosene, natural gas or liquid petroleum gas space heater from operating shall be sold, offered for sale or used in connection with any kerosene, natural gas or liquid petroleum gas space heater.

(i) No person shall sell or offer for sale any kerosene-fired, natural gas or liquid petroleum gas-fired heater that is not exempt from subsection (a) hereof unless it is marked conspicuously by the manufacturer on the container with the phrase "Not Approved For Home Use."

(j) No person shall use a cabinet-type, liquid petroleum gas-fired heater having a fuel source within the heater, inside any building, except as permitted by the State Fire Marshal in the State Fire Code adopted by him under Ohio R.C. 3737.82. (ORC 3701.82)

(k) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 3701.99(C))

#### **521.03 BARRICADES AND WARNING LIGHTS; ABANDONED EXCAVATIONS.**

(a) No person shall abandon or knowingly permit to remain on public or private property, any excavation, well, cesspool or structure which is in the process of construction, reconstruction, repair or alteration unless the same is adequately protected by suitable barricades and guarded by warning devices or lights at night so that the condition will not reasonably prove dangerous to life or limb.

(b) No person shall destroy, remove, damage or extinguish any barricade or warning light that is placed for the protection of the public so as to prevent injury to life or limb.

(c) Any owner or agent in control of a premises upon which a basement, cellar, well or cistern has been abandoned due to demolition, failure to build or any other reason shall cause the same to be filled to the ground surface with rock, gravel, earth or other suitable material.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

#### **521.04 SIDEWALK OBSTRUCTIONS; DAMAGE OR INJURY.**

(a) No person shall place or knowingly drop upon any part of a sidewalk, playground or other public place any tacks, bottles, wire, glass, nails or other articles which may damage property of another or injure any person or animal traveling along or upon such sidewalk or playground.

(b) No person shall walk on, or allow any animal upon, or injure or deface in any way, any soft or newly laid sidewalk pavement.

(c) No person shall place, deposit or maintain any merchandise, goods, material or equipment upon any sidewalk so as to obstruct pedestrian traffic thereon except for such reasonable time as may be actually necessary for the delivery or pickup of such articles. In no such case shall the obstruction remain on such sidewalk for more than one hour.

(d) No person shall unload upon, or transport any heavy merchandise, goods, material or equipment over or across any sidewalk or curb without first placing some sufficient protection over the pavement to protect against damage or injury. The affected area shall be rendered safe and free from danger.

(e) No person shall allow any cellar or trap door, coal chute or elevator or lift opening in any sidewalk to remain open without providing suitable safeguards to protect and warn pedestrian traffic of the dangerous condition.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**521.05 NOTICE TO FILL LOTS, REMOVE PUTRID SUBSTANCES.**

(a) No person shall fail to comply with the following requirements within the lawful time after service or publication of the notice or resolution is made as required by law:

To fill or drain any lot or land or remove all putrid substances therefrom, or remove all obstructions from culverts, covered drains or natural watercourses as provided in Ohio R.C. 715.47.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**521.06 SIDEWALK SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL.**

(a) It shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of every parcel of real estate in the City abutting upon any sidewalk, to keep such sidewalk abutting his premises free and clear of snow and ice, and to remove therefrom all snow and ice accumulated thereon within a reasonable time. A "reasonable time" shall not exceed twelve hours after the abatement of any storm during which such snow and ice may have accumulated.

(b) If, within a reasonable time after the abatement of any storm during which snow or ice has accumulated on any sidewalk, the owner or occupant of any premises abutting thereon has not removed the snow and ice therefrom, as required herein, then the City may remove the snow and ice, and the costs thereof shall be assessed against the lots and land abutting the cleared sidewalk. Notice of assessment shall be given to the owners of lots and land charged therewith, either by mail or publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Montgomery County, and all assessments, together with the costs of publication not paid within ten days after giving such notice shall be certified together with a penalty of five percent to the County Auditor for collection.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**521.07 FENCES.**

(a) No person shall erect or maintain any fence charged with electrical current.

(b) No person shall erect or maintain a barbed wire fence which abuts or is adjacent to any public street or sidewalk. This subsection (b) does not prevent the placement and use of not more than three strands of barbed wire on top of a fence other than a barbed wire fence, provided such strands are not less than seventy-two inches from the ground.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**521.08 LITTERING AND DEPOSIT OF GARBAGE, RUBBISH, JUNK, ETC.**

(a) No person shall, without lawful authority, place or dispose of in any manner, upon any public property or public street or upon the premises of another, any paper, trash, garbage, waste, rubbish, refuse, junk or any substance or material which is or may become noxious, offensive, injurious or dangerous to the public health, comfort or safety.

(b) No person shall cause or allow trash, garbage, waste, rubbish, refuse or any other noxious or offensive materials or substances to be collected or remain in any place to the damage or prejudice of others or of the public, or unlawfully obstruct, impede, divert, corrupt or render unwholesome or impure, any natural watercourse.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a fourth degree misdemeanor for the first offense and for each subsequent offense the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor in the first degree. In addition to all other penalties imposed for a violation of this section, the court shall require the offender to remove or pay the cost of removing such paper, trash, garbage, waste, rubbish, refuse, junk or other such material which was deposited upon the public street or public or private property.  
(Ord. 763-86. Passed 7-24-86.)

(d) Any person who reports information to the Police Department, that leads to arrest and conviction of a person under this section shall be entitled to a reward of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), such award amount to be determined by a vote of the majority of Council. City employees shall not be entitled to receive a reward. (Ord. 803-87. Passed 6-25-87.)

**521.09 NOXIOUS OR OFFENSIVE ODORS.**

(a) No person shall cause, permit or maintain any public nuisance by causing or contributing to the emission or escape into the ambient air from any source, of odorous matter or other objectionable substances or combination of substances in such manner or in such quantities as to endanger or tend to endanger the health, comfort, safety or welfare of the general public or neighboring property owners or residents, or which is unreasonably offensive and objectionable to the public, or which causes unreasonable injury or damage to property or interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of property or normal conduct of business.

(b) Odor or other objectionable element(s) shall be measured at ground level or habitable elevation.

(c) Whenever it is alleged that a use of land or structure creates or is likely to create or otherwise produce such odor or objectionable element(s), the Board of Zoning Appeals shall make a preliminary investigation of the matter and shall forward its report, together with the allegation that there exists or are likely to be created such odor or objectionable element(s), it shall request Council to authorize the employment of a competent specialist or testing laboratory for the purpose of determining the nature and extent of such dangerous or objectionable elements and of practicable means of remedying such condition.

Upon receipt of the findings and recommendations of such specialist or laboratory, the Board may approve, partially approve or disapprove the measures recommended therein and instruct the Building Inspector to proceed with the enforcement of such measures in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for the first offense and, for each subsequent offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(Ord. 1126-95. Passed 6-22-95.)

**521.10 NONSMOKING AREAS IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY.**

(a) As used in this section, "place of public assembly" means:

- (1) Enclosed theaters, except the lobby; opera houses; auditoriums; classrooms; elevators; rooms in which persons are confined as a matter of health care, including but not limited to a hospital room and a room in a rest home serving as the residence of a person living in such rest home;
- (2) All buildings and other enclosed structures owned by the State, its agencies or political subdivisions, including but not limited to hospitals and State institutions for the mentally ill and persons with intellectual disabilities; university and college buildings, except rooms within those buildings used primarily as the residences of students or other persons affiliated with the university or college; office buildings; libraries; museums; and vehicles used in public transportation. That portion of a building or other enclosed structure that is owned by the State, a State agency or a political subdivision and that is used primarily as a food service establishment is not a place of public assembly.
- (3) Each portion of a building or enclosed structure that is not included in subsection (a)(1) or (2) hereof is a place of public assembly if it has a seating capacity of fifty or more persons and is available to the public. Restaurants, food service establishments, dining rooms, cafes, cafeterias or other rooms used primarily for the service of food, as well as bowling alleys and places licensed by the Department of Liquor Control to sell intoxicating beverages for consumption on the premises, are not places of public assembly.

(b) For the purpose of separating persons who smoke from persons who do not smoke for the comfort and health of persons not smoking, in every place of public assembly there shall be an area where smoking is not permitted, which shall be designated a no smoking area. Provided that, no more than one-half of the rooms in any health care facility in which persons are confined as a matter of health care may be designated as smoking areas in their entirety. The designation shall be made before the place of public assembly is made available to the public. In places included in subsection (a)(1) hereof the local fire authority having jurisdiction shall designate no smoking area. In places included in subsection (a)(2) hereof that are owned by the

Municipality, Council shall designate an officer who shall designate the area. In places included in subsection (a)(3) hereof, the person having control of the operations of the place of public assembly shall designate the no smoking area. In places included in subsection (a)(2) hereof which are also included in subsection (a)(1) hereof, the officer who has authority to designate the area in places in subsection (a)(2) hereof shall designate the no smoking area. A no smoking area may include the entire place of public assembly. Designations shall be made by the placement of signs that are clearly visible and that state "NO SMOKING". No person shall remove signs from areas designated as no smoking areas.

(c) This section does not affect or modify the prohibition contained in Ohio R.C. 3313.751(B).

(d) No person shall smoke in any area designated as a no smoking area in accordance with subsection (b) hereof or Ohio R.C. 3791.031.

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 3791.031)

**521.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)



**CHAPTER 525**  
**Law Enforcement and Public Office**

<b>525.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>525.09</b>	<b>Resisting arrest.</b>
<b>525.02</b>	<b>Falsification.</b>	<b>525.10</b>	<b>Having an unlawful interest in a public contract.</b>
<b>525.03</b>	<b>Impersonation of peace officer.</b>	<b>525.11</b>	<b>Soliciting or receiving improper compensation.</b>
<b>525.04</b>	<b>Compounding a crime.</b>	<b>525.12</b>	<b>Dereliction of duty.</b>
<b>525.05</b>	<b>Failure to report a crime, injury or knowledge of death.</b>	<b>525.13</b>	<b>Interfering with civil rights.</b>
<b>525.06</b>	<b>Failure to aid a law enforcement officer.</b>	<b>525.14</b>	<b>Unauthorized display of law enforcement emblems on motor vehicles.</b>
<b>525.07</b>	<b>Obstructing official business.</b>	<b>525.15</b>	<b>Assaulting police dog or horse or an assistance dog.</b>
<b>525.08</b>	<b>Obstructing justice.</b>	<b>525.16</b>	<b>False allegation of peace officer misconduct.</b>
		<b>525.17</b>	<b>Refusal to disclose personal information in public place.</b>
		<b>525.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Law enforcement officer defined - see GEN. OFF. 501.01(k)  
 Misconduct at an emergency - see GEN. OFF. 509.05  
 Making false alarms - see GEN. OFF. 509.07  
 Personating an officer to defraud - see GEN. OFF. 545.16

**525.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Public official" means any elected or appointed officer, or employee, or agent of the State or any political subdivision thereof, whether in a temporary or permanent capacity, and includes, but is not limited to, legislators, judges and law enforcement officers. "Public official" does not include an employee, officer, or governor-appointed member of the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation formed under Ohio R.C. 187.01.
- (b) "Public servant" means any of the following:
  - (1) Any public official;
  - (2) Any person performing ad hoc a governmental function, including, but not limited to, a juror, member of a temporary commission, master, arbitrator, advisor or consultant;

- (3) A person who is a candidate for public office, whether or not the person is elected or appointed to the office for which the person is a candidate. A person is a candidate for purposes of this subsection if the person has been nominated according to law for election or appointment to public office, or if the person has filed a petition or petitions as required by law to have the person's name placed on the ballot in a primary, general or special election, or if the person campaigns as a write-in candidate in any primary, general or special election. "Public servant" does not include an employee, officer, or governor-appointed member of the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation formed under Ohio R.C. 187.01.
- (c) "Party official" means any person who holds an elective or appointive post in a political party in the United States or this State, by virtue of which the person directs, conducts or participates in directing or conducting party affairs at any level of responsibility.
- (d) "Official proceeding" means any proceeding before a legislative, judicial, administrative or other governmental agency or official authorized to take evidence under oath, and includes any proceeding before a referee, hearing examiner, commissioner, notary or other person taking testimony or a deposition in connection with an official proceeding.
- (e) "Detention" means arrest, confinement in any vehicle subsequent to an arrest, confinement in any public or private facility for custody of persons charged with or convicted of a crime in this State or another state or under the laws of the United States or alleged or found to be a delinquent child or unruly child in this State or another state or under the laws of the United States; hospitalization, institutionalization or confinement in any public or private facility that is ordered pursuant to or under the authority of Ohio R.C. 2945.37, 2945.371, 2945.38, 2945.39 or 2945.40, 2945.401 or 2945.402; confinement in any vehicle for transportation to or from any facility of any of those natures; detention for extradition or deportation, except as provided in this subsection, supervision by any employee of any facility of any of those natures; that is incidental to hospitalization, institutionalization or confinement in the facility but that occurs outside the facility; supervision by an employee of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction of a person on any type of release from a State correctional institution; or confinement in any vehicle, airplane, or place while being returned from outside of this State into this State by a private person or entity pursuant to a contract entered into under Ohio R.C. 311.29(E) or Ohio R.C. 5149.03(B). For a person confined in a county jail who participates in a county jail industry program pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5147.30, "detention" includes time spent at an assigned work site and going to and from the work site.



- (f) "Detention facility" means any public or private place used for the confinement of a person charged with or convicted of any crime in this State or another state or under the laws of the United States or alleged or found to be a delinquent child or unruly child in this State or another state or under the laws of the United States.
- (g) "Valuable thing or valuable benefit" includes, but is not limited to, a contribution. This inclusion does not indicate or imply that a contribution was not included in those terms before September 17, 1986.
- (h) "Campaign committee," "contribution," "political action committee," "legislative campaign fund", "political party" and "political contributing entity" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 3517.01.
- (i) "Provider agreement" and "medical assistance program" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.40.  
(ORC 2921.01)

#### **525.02 FALSIFICATION.**

- (a) No person shall knowingly make a false statement, or knowingly swear or affirm the truth of a false statement previously made, when any of the following applies:
  - (1) The statement is made in any official proceeding.
  - (2) The statement is made with purpose to incriminate another.
  - (3) The statement is made with purpose to mislead a public official in performing the public official's official function.
  - (4) The statement is made with purpose to secure the payment of unemployment compensation; Ohio works first; prevention, retention and contingency benefits and services; disability financial assistance; retirement benefits or health care coverage from a state retirement system; economic development assistance as defined in Ohio R.C. 9.66; or other benefits administered by a governmental agency or paid out of a public treasury.
  - (5) The statement is made with purpose to secure the issuance by a governmental agency of a license, permit, authorization, certificate, registration, release or provider agreement.
  - (6) The statement is sworn or affirmed before a notary public or another person empowered to administer oaths.
  - (7) The statement is in writing on or in connection with a report or return that is required or authorized by law.
  - (8) The statement is in writing, and is made with purpose to induce another to extend credit to or employ the offender, or to confer any degree, diploma, certificate of attainment, award of excellence or honor on the offender, or to extend to or bestow upon the offender any other valuable benefit or distinction, when the person to whom the statement is directed relies upon it to that person's detriment.
  - (9) The statement is made with purpose to commit or facilitate the commission of a theft offense.
  - (10) The statement is knowingly made to a probate court in connection with any action, proceeding or other matter within its jurisdiction, either orally or in a written document, including, but not limited to, an application, petition, complaint or other pleading, or an inventory, account or report.
  - (11) The statement is made on an account, form, record, stamp, label or other writing that is required by law.
  - (12) The statement is made in a document or instrument of writing that purports to be a judgment, lien, or claim of indebtedness and is filed or recorded with the Secretary of State, a county recorder, or the clerk of a court of record.

(13) The statement is required under Ohio R.C. 5743.71 in connection with the person's purchase of cigarettes or tobacco products in a delivery sale.

(b) It is no defense to a charge under subsection (a)(6) hereof that the oath or affirmation was administered or taken in an irregular manner.

(c) If contradictory statements relating to the same fact are made by the offender within the period of the statute of limitations for falsification, it is not necessary for the prosecution to prove which statement was false, but only that one or the other was false.

- (d) (1) Whoever violates any provision of subsection (a)(1) to (8) or (10) to (13) hereof is guilty of falsification, a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (a)(9) hereof is guilty of falsification in a theft offense, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the value of the property or services stolen is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, falsification in a theft offense is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(e) A person who violates this section is liable in a civil action to any person harmed by the violation for injury, death, or loss to person or property incurred as a result of the commission of the offense and for reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and other expenses incurred as a result of prosecuting the civil action commenced under this section. A civil action under this section is not the exclusive remedy of a person who incurs injury, death, or loss to person or property as a result of a violation of this section.  
(ORC 2921.13)

### **525.03 IMPERSONATION OF PEACE OFFICER.**

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Peace officer" means a sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal, member of the organized police department of a municipal corporation or township constable who is employed by a political subdivision of this State; a member of a police force employed by a metropolitan housing authority under Ohio R.C. 3735.31(D); a member of a police force employed by a regional transit authority under Ohio R.C. 306.35(Y), a State university law enforcement officer appointed under Ohio R.C. 3345.04; a veterans' home police officer appointed under Ohio R.C. 5907.02; a special police officer employed by a port authority under Ohio R.C. 4582.04 or 4582.28; an officer, agent, or employee of the State or any of its agencies, instrumentalities or political subdivisions, upon whom, by statute, a duty to conserve the peace or to enforce all or certain laws is imposed and the authority to arrest violators is conferred, within limits of that statutory duty and authority; or a State highway patrol trooper whose primary duties are to preserve the peace, to protect life and property and to enforce the laws, ordinances or rules of the State or any of its political subdivisions.
- (2) "Private police officer" means any security guard, special police officer, private detective or other person who is privately employed in a police capacity.
- (3) "Federal law enforcement officer" means an employee of the United States who serves in a position the duties of which are primarily the investigation, apprehension or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses under the criminal laws of the United States.

- (4) "Investigator of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2903.11.
- (5) "Impersonate" means to act the part of, assume the identity of, wear the uniform or any part of the uniform of or display the identification of a particular person or of a member of a class of persons with purpose to make another person believe that the actor is that particular person or is a member of that class of persons.

(b) No person shall impersonate a peace officer, private police officer, federal law enforcement officer or investigator of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.

(c) No person, by impersonating a peace officer, private police officer, federal law enforcement officer, or investigator of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, shall arrest or detain any person, search any person or search the property of any person.

(d) No person, with purpose to commit or facilitate the commission of an offense, shall impersonate a peace officer, private police officer, federal law enforcement officer, an officer, agent or employee of the State or the Municipality or investigator of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.

(e) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under subsection (b) hereof that the impersonation of the peace officer was for a lawful purpose.

(f) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Whoever violates subsections (c) or (d) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the purpose of a violation of subsection (d) hereof is to commit or facilitate the commission of a felony, such violation is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2921.51)

#### **525.04 COMPOUNDING A CRIME.**

(a) No person shall knowingly demand, accept or agree to accept anything of value in consideration of abandoning or agreeing to abandon a pending criminal prosecution.

(b) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section when both of the following apply:

- (1) The pending prosecution involved is for violation of Sections 545.05, 545.07, 545.09 or 545.10(b)(2), or Ohio R.C. 2913.02, 2913.11, 2913.21(B)(2) or 2913.47, of which the actor under this section was the victim.
- (2) The thing of value demanded, accepted or agreed to be accepted, in consideration of abandoning or agreeing to abandon the prosecution, did not exceed an amount that the actor reasonably believed due him as restitution for the loss caused him by the offense.

(c) When a prosecuting witness abandons or agrees to abandon a prosecution under subsection (b) hereof, the abandonment or agreement in no way binds the State or Municipality to abandoning the prosecution.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of compounding a crime, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2921.21)

**525.05 FAILURE TO REPORT A CRIME, INJURY OR KNOWLEDGE OF DEATH.**

- (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (a)(2) hereof, no person, knowing that a felony has been or is being committed, shall knowingly fail to report such information to law enforcement authorities.
- (2) No person, knowing that a violation of division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2913.04 has been, or is being committed or that the person has received information derived from such a violation, shall knowingly fail to report the violation to law enforcement authorities.
- (b) Except for conditions that are within the scope of subsection (e) of this section, no person giving aid to a sick or injured person shall negligently fail to report to law enforcement authorities any gunshot or stab wound treated or observed by the person, or any serious physical harm to persons that the person knows or has reasonable cause to believe resulted from an offense of violence.
- (c) No person who discovers the body or acquires the first knowledge of the death of a person shall fail to report the death immediately to a physician or advanced practice registered nurse whom the person knows to be treating the deceased for a condition from which death at such time would not be unexpected, or to a law enforcement officer, an ambulance service, an emergency squad, or the coroner in a political subdivision in which the body is discovered, the death is believed to have occurred, or knowledge concerning the death is obtained. For purposes of this subsection (c), "advanced practice registered nurse" does not include a certified registered nurse anesthetist.
- (d) No person shall fail to provide upon request of the person to whom a report required by subsection (c) of this section was made, or to any law enforcement officer who has reasonable cause to assert the authority to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death, any facts within the person's knowledge that may have a bearing on the investigation of the death.
- (e) (1) As used in this subsection, "burn injury" means any of the following:
- A. Second or third degree burns;
  - B. Any burns to the upper respiratory tract or laryngeal edema due to the inhalation of superheated air;
  - C. Any burn injury or wound that may result in death;
  - D. Any physical harm to persons caused by or as the result of the use of fireworks, novelties and trick noisemakers, and wire sparklers, as each is defined by Ohio R.C. 3743.01.
- (2) No physician, nurse, physician assistant, or limited practitioner who, outside a hospital, sanitarium, or other medical facility, attends or treats a person who has sustained a burn injury that is inflicted by an explosion or other incendiary device, or that shows evidence of having been inflicted in a violent, malicious, or criminal manner, shall fail to report the burn injury immediately to the local arson, or fire and explosion investigation, bureau, if there is a bureau of this type in the jurisdiction in which the person is attended or treated, or otherwise to local law enforcement authorities.
- (3) No manager, superintendent or other person in charge of a hospital, sanitarium or other medical facility in which a person is attended or treated for any burn injury that is inflicted by an explosion or other incendiary device, or that shows evidence of having been inflicted in a violent, malicious, or criminal manner, shall fail to report the burn injury immediately to the local arson, or fire and explosion investigation, bureau, if there is a bureau of this type in the jurisdiction in which the person is attended or treated, or otherwise to local law enforcement authorities.

- (4) No person who is required to report any burn injury under subsection (e)(2) or (3) of this section shall fail to file, within three working days after attending or treating the victim, a written report of the burn injury with the office of the State Fire Marshal. The report shall comply with the uniform standard developed by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3737.22(A)(15).
  - (5) Anyone participating in the making of reports under subsection (e) of this section or anyone participating in a judicial proceeding resulting from the reports is immune from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed as a result of such actions. Notwithstanding Ohio R.C. 4731.22, the physician-patient relationship or advanced practice registered nurse-patient relationship is not a ground for excluding evidence regarding a person's burn injury or the cause of the burn injury in any judicial proceeding resulting from a report submitted under subsection (e) of this section.
- (f)
- (1) Any doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine, hospital intern or resident, nurse, psychologist, social worker, independent social worker, social work assistant, licensed professional clinical counselor, licensed professional counselor, independent marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a patient or client has been the victim of domestic violence, as defined in Ohio R.C. 3113.31, shall note that knowledge or belief and the basis for it in the patient's or client's records.
  - (2) Notwithstanding Ohio R.C. 4731.22, the physician-patient privilege or advanced practice registered nurse-patient privilege shall not be a ground for excluding any information regarding the report containing the knowledge or belief noted under subsection (f)(1) of this section, and the information may be admitted as evidence in accordance with the Rules of Evidence.
- (g) Subsections (a) and (d) of this section do not require disclosure of information, when any of the following applies:
- (1) The information is privileged by reason of the relationship between attorney and client; physician and patient; advanced practice registered nurse and patient; licensed psychologist or licensed school psychologist and client; licensed professional clinical counselor, licensed professional counselor, independent social worker, social worker, independent marriage and family therapist, or marriage and family therapist and client; member of the clergy, rabbi, minister, or priest and any person communicating information confidentially to the member of the clergy, rabbi, minister, or priest for a religious counseling purpose of a professional character; husband and wife; or a communications assistant and those who are a party to a telecommunications relay service call.
  - (2) The information would tend to incriminate a member of the actor's immediate family.
  - (3) Disclosure of the information would amount to revealing a news source, privileged under Ohio R.C. 2739.04 or 2739.12.
  - (4) Disclosure of the information would amount to disclosure by a member of the ordained clergy of an organized religious body of a confidential communication made to that member of the clergy in that member's capacity as a member of the clergy by a person seeking the aid or counsel of that member of the clergy.

- (5) Disclosure would amount to revealing information acquired by the actor in the course of the actor's duties in connection with a bona fide program of treatment or services for drug dependent persons or persons in danger of drug dependence, which program is maintained or conducted by a hospital, clinic, person, agency, or community addiction services provider whose alcohol and drug addiction services are certified pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5119.36.
- (6) Disclosure would amount to revealing information acquired by the actor in the course of the actor's duties in connection with a bona fide program for providing counseling services to victims of crimes that are violations of Ohio R.C. 2907.02 or 2907.05 or to victims of felonious sexual penetration in violation of former Ohio R.C. 2907.12. As used in this subsection, "counseling services" include services provided in an informal setting by a person who, by education or experience, is competent to provide those services.

(h) No disclosure of information pursuant to this section gives rise to any liability or recrimination for a breach of privilege or confidence.

(i) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) of this section is guilty of failure to report a crime. Violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Violation of subsection (a)(2) or (b) of this section is a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(j) Whoever violates subsection (c) or (d) of this section is guilty of failure to report knowledge of a death, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

- (k) (1) Whoever negligently violates subsection (e) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (2) Whoever knowingly violates subsection (e) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(l) As used in this section, "nurse" includes an advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, and licensed practical nurse. (ORC 2921.22)

**525.06 FAILURE TO AID A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**

(a) No person shall negligently fail or refuse to aid a law enforcement officer, when called upon for assistance in preventing or halting the commission of an offense, or in apprehending or detaining an offender, when such aid can be given without a substantial risk of physical harm to the person giving it.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of failure to aid a law enforcement officer, a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 2921.23)

**525.07 OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS.**

(a) No person, without privilege to do so and with purpose to prevent, obstruct or delay the performance by a public official of any authorized act within the public official's official capacity, shall do any act that hampers or impedes a public official in the performance of the public official's lawful duties.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of obstructing official business. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (b), obstructing official business is a misdemeanor of the second degree. If a violation of this section creates a risk of physical harm to any person, obstructing official business is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2921.31)

**525.08 OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE.**

(a) No person, with purpose to hinder the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of another for a misdemeanor, or to assist another to benefit from the commission of a misdemeanor, and no person, with purpose to hinder the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, adjudication as a delinquent child, or disposition of a child for an act that if committed by an adult would be a misdemeanor or to assist a child to benefit from the commission of an act that if committed by an adult would be a misdemeanor, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Harbor or conceal the other person or child;
- (2) Provide the other person or child with money, transportation, a weapon, a disguise, or other means of avoiding discovery or apprehension;
- (3) Warn the other person or child of impending discovery or apprehension;
- (4) Destroy or conceal physical evidence of the misdemeanor, or act, or induce any person to withhold testimony or information or to elude legal process summoning the person to testify or supply evidence;
- (5) Communicate false information to any person.
- (6) Prevent or obstruct any person, by means of force, intimidation, or deception, from performing any act to aid in the discovery, apprehension, or prosecution of the other person or child.

(b) A person may be prosecuted for, and may be convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for committing, a violation of subsection (a) hereof, regardless of whether the person or child aided ultimately is apprehended for, is charged with, is convicted of, pleads guilty to, or is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing the crime or act the person or child aided committed. The crime or act the person or child aided committed shall be used under subsection (c) hereof in determining the penalty for the violation of subsection (a) hereof, regardless of whether the person or child aided ultimately is apprehended for, is charged with, is convicted of, pleads guilty to, or is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing the crime or act the person or child aided committed.

- (c) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of obstructing justice.
- (2) If the crime committed by the person aided is a misdemeanor or if the act committed by the child aided would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, obstructing justice is a misdemeanor of the same degree as the misdemeanor committed by the person aided or a misdemeanor of the same degree that the act committed by the child aided would be if committed by an adult.

- (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "Adult" and "child" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2151.011.
  - (2) "Delinquent child" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2152.02.  
(ORC 2921.32)

**525.09 RESISTING ARREST.**

(a) No person, recklessly or by force, shall resist or interfere with a lawful arrest of the person or another.

(b) No person, recklessly or by force, shall resist or interfere with a lawful arrest of the person or another person and, during the course of or as a result of the resistance or interference, cause physical harm to a law enforcement officer.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of resisting arrest. A violation of subsection (a) hereof is a misdemeanor of the second degree. A violation of subsection (b) hereof is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2921.33)

**525.10 HAVING AN UNLAWFUL INTEREST IN A PUBLIC CONTRACT.**

(a) No public official shall knowingly do any of the following:

- (1) During the public official's term of office or within one year thereafter, occupy any position of profit in the prosecution of a public contract authorized by the public official or by a legislative body, commission or board of which the public official was a member at the time of authorization unless the contract was let by competitive bidding, to the lowest and best bidder;
- (2) Have an interest in the profits or benefits of a public contract entered into by or for the use of the Municipality or governmental agency or instrumentality with which the public official is connected;
- (3) Have an interest in the profits or benefits of a public contract that is not let by competitive bidding if required by law, and that involves more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

(b) In the absence of bribery or a purpose to defraud, a public official, member of a public official's family or any of a public official's business associates shall not be considered as having an interest in a public contract if all of the following apply:

- (1) The interest of that person is limited to owning or controlling shares of the corporation, or being a creditor of the corporation or other organization that is the contractor on the public contract involved, or that is the issuer of the security in which public funds are invested;
- (2) The shares owned or controlled by that person do not exceed five percent (5%) of the outstanding shares of the corporation, and the amount due that person as creditor does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total indebtedness of the corporation or other organization;
- (3) That person, prior to the time the public contract is entered into, files with the Municipality or governmental agency or instrumentality involved, an affidavit giving that person's exact status in connection with the corporation or other organization.

(c) This section does not apply to a public contract in which a public official, member of a public official's family, or one of a public official's business associates, has an interest, when all of the following apply:

- (1) The subject of the public contract is necessary supplies or services for the Municipality or governmental agency or instrumentality involved;



- (2) The supplies or services are unobtainable elsewhere for the same or lower cost, or are being furnished to the Municipality or governmental agency or instrumentality as part of a continuing course of dealing established prior to the public official's becoming associated with the Municipality or governmental agency or instrumentality involved;
- (3) The treatment accorded the Municipality or governmental agency or instrumentality is either preferential to or the same as that accorded other customers or clients in similar transactions;
- (4) The entire transaction is conducted at arm's length, with full knowledge by the Municipality or governmental agency or instrumentality involved, of the interest of the public official, member of the public official's family or business associate, and the public official takes no part in the deliberations or decisions of the Municipality or governmental agency or instrumentality with respect to the public contract.

(d) Subsection (a)(4) does not prohibit participation by a public employee in any housing program funded by public moneys if the public employee otherwise qualifies for the program and does not use the authority or influence of the public employee's office or employment to secure benefits from the program and if the moneys are to be used on the primary residence of the public employee. Such participation does not constitute an unlawful interest in a public contract in violation of this section.

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of having an unlawful interest in a public contract. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(f) It is not a violation of this section for a prosecuting attorney to appoint assistants and employees in accordance with Ohio R.C. 309.06 and 2921.421, or for a chief legal officer of a municipal corporation or an official designated as prosecutor in a municipal corporation to appoint assistants and employees in accordance with Ohio R.C. 733.621 and 2921.421.

(g) Any public contract in which a public official, a member of the public official's family, or any of the public official's business associates has an interest in violation of this section is void and unenforceable. Any contract securing the investment of public funds in which a public official, a member of the public official's family, or any of the public official's business associates has an interest, is an underwriter, or receives any brokerage, origination, or servicing fees and that was entered into in violation of this section is void and unenforceable.

(h) As used in this section:

(1) "Public contract" means any of the following:

- A. The purchase or acquisition, or a contract for the purchase or acquisition of property or services by or for the use of the State, any of its political subdivisions, or any agency or instrumentality of either, including the employment of an individual by the State, any of its political subdivisions, or any agency or instrumentality of either.
- B. A contract for the design, construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of any public property.

(2) "Chief legal officer" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 733.621. (ORC 2921.42)

#### **525.11 SOLICITING OR RECEIVING IMPROPER COMPENSATION.**

(a) No public servant shall knowingly solicit or accept and no person shall knowingly promise or give to a public servant either of the following:

- (1) Any compensation, other than is allowed by Ohio R.C. 102.03(G), (H), and (I) or other provisions of law, to perform the public servant's official duties, to perform any other act or service in the public servant's public capacity, for the general performance of the duties of the public servant's public office or public employment, or as a supplement to the public servant's public compensation;
- (2) Additional or greater fees or costs than are allowed by law to perform the public servant's official duties.

(b) No public servant for the public servant's own personal or business use and no person for the person's own personal or business use or for the personal or business use of a public servant or party official, shall solicit or accept anything of value in consideration of either of the following:

- (1) Appointing or securing, maintaining or renewing the appointment of any person to any public office, employment or agency;
- (2) Preferring, or maintaining the status of, any public employee with respect to compensation, duties, placement, location, promotion or other material aspects of employment.

(c) No person for the benefit of a political party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political action committee or political contributing entity shall coerce any contribution in consideration of either of the following:

- (1) Appointing or securing, maintaining or renewing the appointment of any person to any public office, employment or agency;
- (2) Preferring, or maintaining the status of, any public employee with respect to compensation, duties, placement, location, promotion or other material aspects of employment.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of soliciting improper compensation, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(e) A public servant who is convicted of a violation of this section is disqualified from holding any public office, employment or position of trust in this Municipality for a period of seven years from the date of conviction.

(f) Subsections (a), (b) and (c) hereof do not prohibit a person from making voluntary contributions to a political party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political action committee or political contributing entity or prohibit a political party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political action committee or political contributing entity from accepting voluntary contributions. (ORC 2921.43)

#### **525.12 DERELICTION OF DUTY.**

(a) No law enforcement officer shall negligently do any of the following:

- (1) Fail to serve a lawful warrant without delay;
- (2) Fail to prevent or halt the commission of an offense or to apprehend an offender, when it is in the law enforcement officer's power to do so alone or with available assistance.

(b) No law enforcement, ministerial or judicial officer shall negligently fail to perform a lawful duty in a criminal case or proceeding.

(c) No officer, having charge of a detention facility, shall negligently do any of the following:

- (1) Allow the detention facility to become littered or unsanitary;
- (2) Fail to provide persons confined in the detention facility with adequate food, clothing, bedding, shelter and medical attention;
- (3) Fail to control an unruly prisoner, or to prevent intimidation of or physical harm to a prisoner by another;
- (4) Allow a prisoner to escape;
- (5) Fail to observe any lawful and reasonable regulation for the management of the detention facility.

(d) No public official of the Municipality shall recklessly create a deficiency, incur a liability or expend a greater sum than is appropriated by the legislative authority of the Municipality for the use in any one year of the department, agency or institution with which the public official is connected.

(e) No public servant shall recklessly fail to perform a duty expressly imposed by law with respect to the public servant's office, or recklessly do any act expressly forbidden by law with respect to the public servant's office.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of dereliction of duty, a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(g) As used in this section, "public servant" includes an officer or employee of a contractor as defined in Ohio R.C. 9.08.

#### **525.13 INTERFERING WITH CIVIL RIGHTS.**

(a) No public servant, under color of his office, employment or authority, shall knowingly deprive, or conspire or attempt to deprive any person of a constitutional or statutory right.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of interfering with civil rights, a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 2921.45)

#### **525.14 UNAUTHORIZED DISPLAY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EMBLEMS ON MOTOR VEHICLES.**

(a) No person who is not entitled to do so shall knowingly display on a motor vehicle the emblem of a law enforcement agency or an organization of law enforcement officers.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of the unlawful display of the emblem of a law enforcement agency or an organization of law enforcement officers, a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 2913.441)

#### **525.15 ASSAULTING POLICE DOG OR HORSE OR AN ASSISTANCE DOG.**

(a) No person shall knowingly cause, or attempt to cause, physical harm to a police dog or horse in either of the following circumstances:

- (1) The police dog or horse is assisting a law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's official duties at the time the physical harm is caused or attempted.
- (2) The police dog or horse is not assisting a law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's official duties at the time the physical harm is caused or attempted, but the offender has actual knowledge that the dog or horse is a police dog or horse.

- (b) No person shall recklessly do any of the following:
- (1) Taunt, torment, or strike a police dog or horse;
  - (2) Throw an object or substance at a police dog or horse;
  - (3) Interfere with or obstruct a police dog or horse, or interfere with or obstruct a law enforcement officer who is being assisted by a police dog or horse, in a manner that does any of the following:
    - A. Inhibits or restricts the law enforcement officer's control of the police dog or horse;
    - B. Deprives the law enforcement officer of control of the police dog or horse;
    - C. Releases the police dog or horse from its area of control;
    - D. Enters the area of control of the police dog or horse without the consent of the law enforcement officer, including placing food or any other object or substance into that area;
    - E. Inhibits or restricts the ability of the police dog or horse to assist a law enforcement officer.
  - (4) Engage in any conduct that is likely to cause serious physical injury or death to a police dog or horse.
  - (5) If the person is the owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog, fail to reasonably restrain the dog from taunting, tormenting, chasing, approaching in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, or attempting to bite or otherwise endanger a police dog or horse that at the time of the conduct is assisting a law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's duties or that the person knows is a police dog or horse.
- (c) No person shall knowingly cause, or attempt to cause, physical harm to an assistance dog in either of the following circumstances:
- (1) The dog is assisting or serving a blind, deaf or hearing impaired, or mobility impaired person at the time the physical harm is caused or attempted.
  - (2) The dog is not assisting or serving a blind, deaf or hearing impaired, or mobility impaired person at the time the physical harm is caused or attempted, but the offender has actual knowledge that the dog is an assistance dog.
- (d) No person shall recklessly do any of the following:
- (1) Taunt, torment, or strike an assistance dog;
  - (2) Throw an object or substance at an assistance dog;
  - (3) Interfere with or obstruct an assistance dog, or interfere with or obstruct a blind, deaf or hearing impaired, or mobility impaired person who is being assisted or served by an assistance dog, in a manner that does any of the following:
    - A. Inhibits or restricts the assisted or served person's control of the dog;
    - B. Deprives the assisted or served person of control of the dog;
    - C. Releases the dog from its area of control;
    - D. Enters the area of control of the dog without the consent of the assisted or served person, including placing food or any other object or substance into that area;
    - E. Inhibits or restricts the ability of the dog to assist the assisted or served person.

- (4) Engage in any conduct that is likely to cause serious physical injury or death to an assistance dog;
  - (5) If the person is the owner, keeper or harbinger of a dog, fail to reasonably restrain the dog from taunting, tormenting, chasing, approaching in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, or attempting to bite or otherwise endanger an assistance dog that at the time of the conduct is assisting or serving a blind, deaf or hearing impaired, or mobility impaired person or that the person knows is an assistance dog.
- (e)
- (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of assaulting a police dog or horse. If the violation results in physical harm to the police dog or horse, assaulting a police dog or horse is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the violation does not result in death, serious physical harm, or physical harm to the police dog or horse, assaulting a police dog or horse is a misdemeanor of the second degree. If the violation results in death or serious physical harm to the police dog or horse, such violation is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (2) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of harassing a police dog or horse. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, harassing a police dog or horse is a misdemeanor of the second degree. If the violation results in the death of the police dog or horse or if the violation results in serious physical harm to the police dog or horse but does not result in its death, harassing a police dog or horse is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. If the violation results in physical harm to the police dog or horse but does not result in its death or in serious physical harm to it, harassing a police dog or horse is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
  - (3) Whoever violates subsection (c) hereof is guilty of assaulting an assistance dog. If the violation results in physical harm to the dog other than death or serious physical harm, assaulting an assistance dog is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the violation does not result in death, serious physical harm, or physical harm to the dog, assaulting an assistance dog is a misdemeanor of the second degree. If the violation results in death or serious physical harm to the dog, such violation is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (4) Whoever violates subsection (d) of this section is guilty of harassing an assistance dog. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, harassing an assistance dog is a misdemeanor of the second degree. If the violation results in the death of or serious physical harm to the assistance dog but does not result in its death, harassing an assistance dog is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. If the violation results in physical harm to the assistance dog but does not result in its death or in serious physical harm to it, harassing an assistance dog is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

- (5) In addition to any other sanction or penalty imposed for the offense under this section, whoever violates subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section is responsible for the payment of all of the following:
- A. Any veterinary bill or bill for medication incurred as a result of the violation by the Police Department regarding a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or by the blind, deaf or hearing impaired, or mobility impaired person assisted or served by the assistance dog regarding a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section;
  - B. The cost of any damaged equipment that results from the violation;
  - C. If the violation did not result in the death of the police dog or horse or the assistance dog that was the subject of the violation and if, as a result of that dog or horse being the subject of the violation, the dog or horse needs further training or retraining to be able to continue in the capacity of a police dog or horse or an assistance dog, the cost of any further training or retraining of that dog or horse by a law enforcement officer or by the blind, deaf or hearing impaired, or mobility impaired person assisted or served by the assistance dog;
  - D. If the violation resulted in the death of the police dog or horse or the assistance dog that was the subject of the violation or resulted in serious physical harm to that dog or horse to the extent that the dog or horse needs to be replaced on either a temporary or a permanent basis, the cost of replacing that dog or horse and of any further training of a new police dog or horse or a new assistance dog by a law enforcement officer or by the blind, deaf or hearing impaired, or mobility impaired person assisted or served by the assistance dog, which replacement or training is required because of the death of or the serious physical harm to the dog or horse that was the subject of the violation.

(f) This section does not apply to a licensed veterinarian whose conduct is in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 4741.

(g) This section only applies to an offender who knows or should know at the time of the violation that the police dog or horse or assistance dog that is the subject of a violation under this section is a police dog or horse or assistance dog.

- (h) As used in this section:
- (1) "Physical harm" means any injury, illness, or other physiological impairment, regardless of its gravity or duration.
  - (2) "Police dog or horse" means a dog or horse that has been trained, and may be used, to assist law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties.
  - (3) "Serious physical harm" means any of the following:
    - A. Any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of death;
    - B. Any physical harm that causes permanent maiming or that involves some temporary, substantial maiming;
    - C. Any physical harm that causes acute pain of a duration that results in substantial suffering.

- (4) "Assistance dog", "blind", and "mobility impaired person" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 955.011.  
(ORC 2921.321)

**525.16 FALSE ALLEGATION OF PEACE OFFICER MISCONDUCT.**

(a) As used in this section, "peace officer" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2935.01.

(b) No person shall knowingly file a complaint against a peace officer that alleges that the peace officer engaged in misconduct in the performance of the officer's duties if the person knows that the allegation is false.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of making a false allegation of peace officer misconduct, a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 2921.15)

**525.17 REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE PERSONAL INFORMATION IN PUBLIC PLACE.**

(a) No person who is in a public place shall refuse to disclose the person's name, address, or date of birth, when requested by a law enforcement officer who reasonably suspects either of the following:

- (1) The person is committing, has committed, or is about to commit a criminal offense.
- (2) The person witnessed any of the following:
  - A. An offense of violence that would constitute a felony under the laws of this State;
  - B. A felony offense that causes or results in, or creates a substantial risk of, serious physical harm to another person or to property;
  - C. Any attempt or conspiracy to commit, or complicity in committing, any offense identified in subsection (a)(2)A. or B. of this section;
  - D. Any conduct reasonably indicating that any offense identified in subsection (a)(2)A. or B. of this section or any attempt, conspiracy, or complicity described in subsection (a)(2)C. of this section has been, is being, or is about to be committed.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of failure to disclose one's personal information, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(c) Nothing in this section requires a person to answer any questions beyond that person's name, address, or date of birth. Nothing in this section authorizes a law enforcement officer to arrest a person for not providing any information beyond that person's name, address, or date of birth or for refusing to describe the offense observed.

(d) It is not a violation of this section to refuse to answer a question that would reveal a person's age or date of birth if age is an element of the crime that the person is suspected of committing. (ORC 2921.29)

**525.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)





**CHAPTER 529**  
**Liquor Control**

<p><b>529.01</b> Definitions.</p> <p><b>529.02</b> Sales to and use by underage persons; securing public accommodations.</p> <p><b>529.021</b> Purchase by minor; misrepresentation.</p> <p><b>529.03</b> Sales to intoxicated persons.</p> <p><b>529.04</b> Liquor consumption in motor vehicle.</p>	<p><b>529.05</b> Permit required.</p> <p><b>529.06</b> Low-alcohol beverages: sale to and purchase by underage persons prohibited.</p> <p><b>529.07</b> Open container prohibited.</p> <p><b>529.08</b> Hours of sale or consumption.</p> <p><b>529.09</b> Alcoholic beverages on City property; license required.</p> <p><b>529.10</b> Permitting rowdyism and excessive noise.</p> <p><b>529.99</b> Penalty.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Prohibiting sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday - see  
     Ohio R.C. 4301.22(D)  
 Local option - see Ohio R.C. 4301.32 et seq., 4303.29  
 Disorderly conduct; intoxication - see GEN. OFF. 509.03  
 Using weapons while intoxicated - see GEN. OFF. 549.03

**529.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in the Codified Ordinances:

- (a) "Alcohol" means ethyl alcohol, whether rectified or diluted with water or not, whatever its origin may be, and includes synthetic ethyl alcohol. Such term excludes denatured alcohol and wood alcohol.
- (b) "Intoxicating liquor" and "liquor" include all liquids and compounds, other than beer as defined in subsection (c) hereof, containing one half of one percent (0.5%) or more of alcohol by volume which are fit to use for beverage purposes, from whatever source and by whatever process produced, by whatever name called and whether they are medicated, proprietary or patented. Such phrase includes cider and alcohol and all solids and confections which contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume.
- (c)
  - (1) "Beer" includes all beverages brewed or fermented wholly or in part from malt products and containing one-half of one percent (0.5%) or more, of alcohol by volume. (ORC 4301.01)
  - (2) Beer, regardless of the percent of alcohol by volume, is not intoxicating liquor for purposes of this chapter. (ORC 4301.244)
- (d) "Person" includes firms and corporations.
- (e) "Low-alcohol beverage" means any brewed or fermented malt product, or any product made from the fermented juices of grapes, fruits, or other agricultural products, that contains either no alcohol or less than one-half of one percent (0.5%) of alcohol by volume. The beverages described in subsection (e) hereof do not include a soft drink such as root beer, birch beer, or ginger beer. (ORC 4301.01)

**529.02 SALES TO AND USE BY UNDERAGE PERSONS; SECURING PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 4301, no person shall sell beer or intoxicating liquor to an underage person, or shall buy beer or intoxicating liquor for an underage person, or shall furnish it to, an underage person, unless given by a physician in the regular line of his practice or given for established religious purposes, or unless the underage person is supervised by a parent, spouse who is not an underage person or legal guardian.

In proceedings before the Liquor Control Commission, no permit holder, or no employee or agent of a permit holder, charged with a violation of this subsection shall be charged, for the same offense, with a violation of Ohio R.C. 4301.22(A)(1).

(b) No person who is the owner or occupant of any public or private place shall knowingly allow any underage person to remain in or on the place while possessing or consuming beer or intoxicating liquor, unless the intoxicating liquor or beer is given to the person possessing or consuming it by that person's parent, spouse who is not an underage person or legal guardian and the parent, spouse who is not an underage person or legal guardian is present at the time of the person's possession or consumption of the beer or intoxicating liquor.

An owner of a public or private place is not liable for acts or omissions in violation of this subsection that are committed by a lessee of that place, unless the owner authorizes or acquiesces in the lessee's acts or omissions.

(c) No person shall engage or use accommodations at a hotel, inn, cabin, campground or restaurant when he knows or has reason to know either of the following:

- (1) That beer or intoxicating liquor will be consumed by an underage person on the premises of the accommodations that the person engages or uses, unless the person engaging or using the accommodations is the spouse of the underage person and is not an underage person, or is the parent or legal guardian of all of the underage persons, who consume beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises and that person is on the premises at all times when beer or intoxicating liquor is being consumed by an underage person;
- (2) That a drug of abuse will be consumed on the premises of the accommodations by any person, except a person who obtained the drug of abuse pursuant to a prescription issued by a practitioner and has the drug of abuse in the original container in which it was dispensed to the person.

- (d) (1) No person is required to permit the engagement of accommodations at any hotel, inn, cabin or campground by an underage person or for an underage person, if the person engaging the accommodations knows or has reason to know that the underage person is intoxicated, or that the underage person possesses any beer or intoxicating liquor and is not supervised by a parent, spouse who is not an underage person or legal guardian who is or will be present at all times when the beer or intoxicating liquor is being consumed by the underage person.
- (2) No underage person shall knowingly engage or attempt to engage accommodations at any hotel, inn, cabin or campground by presenting identification that falsely indicates that the underage person is twenty-one years of age or older for the purpose of violating this section.

(e) No underage person shall knowingly order, pay for, share the cost of, attempt to purchase, possess, or consume any beer or intoxicating liquor, in any public or private place. No underage person shall knowingly be under the influence of any beer or intoxicating liquor in any public place. The prohibitions set forth in this subsection (e) hereof against an underage person knowingly possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of any beer or intoxicating liquor shall not apply if the underage person is supervised by a parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian, or the beer or intoxicating liquor is given by a physician in the regular line of the physician's practice or given for established religious purposes.

(f) No parent, spouse who is not an underage person or legal guardian of a minor shall knowingly permit the minor to violate this section or Section 529.021(a) to (c).

(g) The operator of any hotel, inn, cabin or campground shall make the provisions of this section available in writing to any person engaging or using accommodations at the hotel, inn, cabin or campground.

(h) As used in this section:

- (1) "Drug of abuse" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 3719.011.
- (2) "Hotel" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 3731.01.
- (3) "Licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs" and "prescription" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4729.01.
- (4) "Minor" means a person under the age of eighteen years.
- (5) "Underage person" means a person under the age of twenty-one years. (ORC 4301.69)

(i) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. In addition, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). (ORC 4301.99)

#### **529.021 PURCHASE BY MINOR; MISREPRESENTATION.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 4301, no person under the age of twenty-one years shall purchase beer or intoxicating liquor. (ORC 4301.63)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 4301, no person shall knowingly furnish any false information as to the name, age or other identification of any person under twenty-one years of age for the purpose of obtaining or with the intent to obtain, beer or intoxicating liquor for a person under twenty-one years of age, by purchase, or as a gift. (ORC 4301.633)

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 4301, no person under the age of twenty-one years shall knowingly show or give false information concerning the person's name, age or other identification for the purpose of purchasing or otherwise obtaining beer or intoxicating liquor in any place where beer or intoxicating liquor is sold under a permit issued by the Division of Liquor Control or sold by the Division of Liquor Control. (ORC 4301.634)

- (d) (1) Whoever violates any provision of this section for which no other penalty is provided is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof, shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The court imposing a fine for a violation of subsection (a) hereof may order that the fine be paid by the performance of public work at a reasonable hourly rate established by the court. The court shall designate the time within which the public work shall be completed.
- (3) A. Whoever violates subsection (c) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If, in committing a first violation of that subsection, the offender presented to the permit holder or the permit holder's employee or agent a false, fictitious or altered identification card, a false or fictitious driver's license purportedly issued by any state, or a driver's license issued by any state that has been altered, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than six months.
- B. On a second violation in which, for the second time, the offender presented to the permit holder or the permit holder's employee or agent a false, fictitious or altered identification card, a false or fictitious driver's license purportedly issued by any state, or a driver's license issued by any state that has been altered, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than six months. The court also may impose a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in Ohio R.C. 4510.02(A)(7).

- C. On a third or subsequent violation in which, for the third or subsequent time, the offender presented to the permit holder or the permit holder's employee or agent a false, fictitious or altered identification card, a false or fictitious driver's license purportedly issued by any state, or a driver's license issued by any state that has been altered, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than six months. Except as provided in this subsection, the court also may impose a class six suspension of the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in Ohio R.C. 4510.02(A)(6), and the court may order that the suspension or denial remain in effect until the offender attains the age of twenty-one years. The court, in lieu of suspending the offenders temporary instruction permit, probationary driver's license or driver's license, instead may order the offender to perform a determinate number of hours of community service, with the court determining the actual number of hours and the nature of the community service the offender shall perform. (ORC 4301.99)

#### **529.03 SALES TO INTOXICATED PERSONS.**

- (a) No permit holder and no agent or employee of a permit holder shall sell or furnish beer or intoxicating liquor to an intoxicated person. (ORC 4301.22)
- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4301.99)

#### **529.04 LIQUOR CONSUMPTION IN MOTOR VEHICLE.**

- (a) No person shall consume any beer or intoxicating liquor in a motor vehicle. This section does not apply to persons described in Section 529.07(d). (ORC 4301.64)
- (b) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (c) If an offender who violates this section was under the age of eighteen years at the time of the offense, the court, in addition to any other penalties it imposes upon the offender, shall suspend the offender's temporary instruction permit, probationary driver's license, or driver's license for a period of not less than six months and not more than one year. In lieu of suspending the offender's temporary instruction permit, probationary driver's license or driver's license, the court may instead require the offender to perform community service for a number of hours to be determined by the court. If the offender is fifteen years and six months of age or older and has not been issued a temporary instruction permit or probationary driver's license, the offender shall not be eligible to be issued such a license or permit for a period of six months. If the offender has not attained the age of fifteen years and six months, the offender shall not be eligible to be issued a temporary instruction permit until the offender attains the age of sixteen years. (ORC 4301.99)

**529.05 PERMIT REQUIRED.**

(a) No person personally or by the person's clerk, agent or employee shall manufacture, manufacture for sale, offer, keep or possess for sale, furnish or sell, or solicit the purchase or sale of any beer or intoxicating liquor in this Municipality, or transport, import or cause to be transported or imported any beer, intoxicating liquor or alcohol on or into this Municipality for delivery, use or sale, unless the person has fully complied with Ohio R.C. Chapters 4301 and 4303 or is the holder of a permit issued by the Division of Liquor Control and in force at the time. (ORC 4303.25)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**529.06 LOW-ALCOHOL BEVERAGES: SALE TO AND PURCHASE BY UNDERAGE PERSONS PROHIBITED.**

(a) As used in this section, "underage person" means a person under eighteen years of age.

(b) No underage person shall purchase any low-alcohol beverage.

(c) No underage person shall order, pay for, share the cost of, or attempt to purchase any low-alcohol beverage.

(d) No person shall knowingly furnish any false information as to the name, age, or other identification of any underage person for the purpose of obtaining or with the intent to obtain any low-alcohol beverage for an underage person, by purchase or as a gift.

(e) No underage person shall knowingly show or give false information concerning his name, age, or other identification for the purpose of purchasing or otherwise obtaining any low-alcohol beverage in any place in this Municipality.

(f) No person shall sell or furnish any low-alcohol beverage to, or buy any low-alcohol beverage for, an underage person, unless given by a physician in the regular line of his practice or given for established religious purposes, or unless the underage person is accompanied by a parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian.

(g) No person who is the owner or occupant of any public or private place shall knowingly allow any underage person to remain in or on the place while possessing or consuming any low-alcohol beverage, unless the low-alcohol beverage is given to the person possessing or consuming it by that person's parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian, and the parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian is present when the person possesses or consumes the low-alcohol beverage.

An owner of a public or private place is not liable for acts or omissions in violation of this division that are committed by a lessee of that place, unless the owner authorizes or acquiesces in the lessee's acts or omissions.

(h) No underage person shall knowingly possess or consume any low-alcohol beverage in any public or private place, unless he is accompanied by a parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian, or unless the low-alcohol beverage is given by a physician in the regular line of his practice or given for established religious purposes.

(i) No parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian of an underage person shall knowingly permit the underage person to violate this section.  
(ORC 4301.631)

(j) Whoever violates any provision of this section for which no other penalty is provided is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(k) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The court imposing a fine for a violation of subsection (b) hereof may order that the fine be paid by the performance of public work at a reasonable hourly rate established by the court. The court shall designate the time within which the public work shall be completed. (ORC 4301.99)

**529.07 OPEN CONTAINER PROHIBITED.**

- (a) As used in this section:
- (1) "Chauffeured limousine" means a vehicle registered under Ohio R.C. 4503.24.
  - (2) "Street," "highway" and "motor vehicle" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.
- (b) No person shall have in the person's possession an opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor in any of the following circumstances:
- (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(1)E. hereof, in an agency store;
  - (2) Except as provided in subsection (c) hereof, on the premises of the holder of any permit issued by the Division of Liquor Control;
  - (3) In any other public place;
  - (4) Except as provided in subsection (d) or (e) hereof, while operating or being a passenger in or on a motor vehicle on any street, highway or other public or private property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking;
  - (5) Except as provided in subsection (d) or (e) hereof, while being in or on a stationary motor vehicle on any street, highway or other public or private property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking.
- (c) (1) A person may have in the person's possession an opened container of any of the following:
- A. Beer or intoxicating liquor that has been lawfully purchased for consumption on the premises where bought from the holder of an A-1-A, A-2, A-2(f), A-3a, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-3a, D-4, D-4a, D-5, D-5a, D-5b, D-5c, D-5d, D-5e, D-5f, D-5g, D-5h, D-5i, D-5j, D-5k, D-5l, D-5m, D-5n, D-5o, D-7, D8, E, F, F-2, F-5, F-7 or F-8 permit;
  - B. Beer, wine, or mixed beverages served for consumption on the premises by the holder of an F-3 permit, wine served as a tasting sample by an A-2 permit holder or S permit holder for consumption on the premises of a farmers market for which an F-10 permit has been issued, or wine served for consumption on the premises by the holder of an F-4 or F-6 permit;
  - C. Beer or intoxicating liquor consumed on the premises of a convention facility as provided in Ohio R.C. 4303.201;
  - D. Beer or intoxicating liquor to be consumed during tastings and samplings approved by rule of the Liquor Control Commission.
  - E. Spirituous liquor to be consumed for purposes of a tasting sample, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4301.171.

- (2) A person may have in the person's possession on an F liquor permit premises an opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor that was not purchased from the holder of the F permit if the premises for which the F permit is issued is a music festival and the holder of the F permit grants permission for that possession on the premises during the period for which the F permit is issued. As used in this section, "music festival" means a series of outdoor live musical performances, extending for a period of at least three consecutive days and located on an area of land of at least forty acres.
- (3) A. A person may have in the person's possession on a D-2 liquor permit premises an opened or unopened container of wine that was not purchased from the holder of the D-2 permit if the premises for which the D-2 permit is issued is an outdoor performing arts center, the person is attending an orchestral performance, and the holder of the D-2 permit grants permission for the possession and consumption of wine in certain predesignated areas of the premises during the period for which the D-2 permit is issued.
- B. As used in subsection (c)(3)A. of this section:
1. "Orchestral performance" means a concert comprised of a group of not fewer than forty musicians playing various musical instruments.
  2. "Outdoor performing arts center" means an outdoor performing arts center that is located on not less than one hundred fifty acres of land and that is open for performances from the first day of April to the last day of October of each year.
- (4) A person may have in the person's possession an opened or unopened container of beer or intoxicating liquor at an outdoor location at which the person is attending an orchestral performance as defined in subsection (c)(3)B.1. hereof if the person with supervision and control over the performance grants permission for the possession and consumption of beer or intoxicating liquor in certain predesignated areas of that outdoor location.
- (5) A person may have in the person's possession on an F-9 liquor permit premises an opened or unopened container of beer or intoxicating liquor that was not purchased from the holder of the F-9 permit if the person is attending either of the following:
- A. An orchestral performance and the F-9 permit holder grants permission for the possession and consumption of beer or intoxicating liquor in certain predesignated areas of the premises during the period for which the F-9 permit is issued;
- B. An outdoor performing arts event or orchestral performance that is free of charge and the F-9 permit holder annually hosts not less than twenty-five other events or performances that are free of charge on the permit premises.
- As used in subsection (c)(5) hereof, "orchestral performance" has the same meaning as in subsection (c)(3)B. of this section.
- (6) A. A person may have in the person's possession on the property of an outdoor motorsports facility an opened or unopened container of beer or intoxicating liquor that was not purchased from the owner of the facility if both of the following apply:
1. The person is attending a racing event at the facility; and
  2. The owner of the facility grants permission for the possession and consumption of beer or intoxicating liquor on the property of the facility;



- B. As used in subsection (c)(6)A. of this section:
1. "Racing event" means a motor vehicle racing event sanctioned by one or more motor racing sanctioning organizations.
  2. "Outdoor motorsports facility" means an outdoor racetrack to which all of the following apply:
    - a. It is two and four-tenths miles or more in length.
    - b. It is located on two hundred acres or more of land.
    - c. The primary business of the owner of the facility is the hosting and promoting of racing events.
    - d. The holder of a D-1, D-2 or D-3 permit is located on the property of the facility.
- (7) A. A person may have in the person's possession an opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor at an outdoor location within an outdoor refreshment area created under Ohio R.C. 4301.82, if the opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor was purchased from a qualified permit holder to which both of the following apply:
1. The permit holder's premises is located within the outdoor refreshment area.
  2. The permit held by the permit holder has an outdoor refreshment area designation.
- B. Subsection (c)(7) of this section does not authorize a person to do either of the following:
1. Enter the premises of an establishment within an outdoor refreshment area while possessing an opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor acquired elsewhere;
  2. Possess an opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor while being in or on a motor vehicle within an outdoor refreshment area, unless the motor vehicle is stationary and is not being operated in a lane of vehicular travel or unless the possession is otherwise authorized under subsection (d) or (e) of this section.
- (8) A. A person may have in the person's possession on the property of a market, within a defined F-8 permit premises, an opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor that was purchased from a D permit premises that is located immediately adjacent to the market if both of the following apply:
1. The market grants permission for the possession and consumption of beer and intoxicating liquor within the defined F-8 permit premises;
  2. The market is hosting an event pursuant to an F-8 permit and the market has notified the Division of Liquor Control about the event in accordance with division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 4303.208.
- B. As used in subsection (c)(8) of this section, market means a market, for which an F-8 permit is held, that has been in operation since 1860.

(d) This section does not apply to a person who pays all or a portion of the fee imposed for the use of a chauffeured limousine pursuant to a prearranged contract, or the guest of such a person, when all of the following apply:

- (1) The person or guest is a passenger in the limousine;

- (2) The person or guest is located in the limousine, but is not occupying a seat in the front compartment of the limousine where the operator of the limousine is located;
  - (3) The limousine is located on any street, highway, or other public or private property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking.
- (e) An opened bottle of wine that was purchased from the holder of a permit that authorizes the sale of wine for consumption on the premises where sold is not an opened container for the purposes of this section if both of the following apply:
  - (1) The opened bottle of wine is securely resealed by the permit holder or an employee of the permit holder before the bottle is removed from the premises. The bottle shall be secured in such a manner that it is visibly apparent if the bottle has been subsequently opened or tampered with.
  - (2) The opened bottle of wine that is resealed in accordance with subsection (e)(1) of this section is stored in the trunk of a motor vehicle or, if the motor vehicle does not have a trunk, behind the last upright seat or in an area not normally occupied by the driver or passengers and not easily accessible by the driver.
- (f)
  - (1) Except if an ordinance or resolution is enacted or adopted under subsection (f)(2) of this section, this section does not apply to a person who, pursuant to a prearranged contract, is a passenger riding on a commercial quadricycle when all of the following apply:
    - A. The person is not occupying a seat in the front of the commercial quadricycle where the operator is steering or braking.
    - B. The commercial quadricycle is being operated on a street, highway or other public or private property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking.
    - C. The person has in their possession on the commercial quadricycle an opened container of beer or wine.
    - D. The person has in their possession on the commercial quadricycle not more than either thirty-six ounces of beer or eighteen ounces of wine.
  - (2) The legislative authority of a municipal corporation or township may enact an ordinance or adopt a resolution, as applicable, that prohibits a passenger riding on a commercial quadricycle from possessing an opened container or beer or wine.
  - (3) As used in this section, “commercial quadricycle” means a vehicle that has fully-operative pedals for propulsion entirely by human power and that meets all of the following requirements:
    - A. It has four wheels and is operated in a manner similar to a bicycle.
    - B. It has at least five seats for passengers.
    - C. It is designed to be powered by the pedaling of the operator and the passengers.
    - D. It is used for commercial purposes.
    - E. It is operated by the vehicle owner or an employee of the owner.
- (g) This section does not apply to a person that has in the person’s possession an opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises of a market if the beer or intoxicating liquor has been purchased from a D liquor permit holder that is located in the market.

As used in subsection (g) of this section, “market” means an establishment that:

  - (1) Leases space in the market to individual vendors, not less than fifty percent of which are retail food establishments or food service operations licensed under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3717;

- (2) Has an indoor sales floor area of not less than twenty-two thousand square feet;
- (3) Hosts a farmer's market on each Saturday from April through December. (ORC 4301.62)

(h) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4301.99(A))

#### **529.08 HOURS OF SALE OR CONSUMPTION.**

(a) This rule shall apply to the retail sale of beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor.

(b) No beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor shall be sold or delivered by an A-1, A-1c, A-2, B-1, B-2, B-4, B-5, C-1, C-2, C-2X, D-1, D-2, D-2X, D-3 when issued without a D-3A, D-3X, D-4, D-5H, D-5K, D-8, F, F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5, F-6, F-7, F-8, F-9, G or I permit holder:

- (1) From Monday to Saturday between the hours of one a.m. and five thirty a.m.
- (2) On Sunday between the hours of one a.m. and Sunday midnight, unless statutorily authorized otherwise.
- (3) Consumption of beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor is also prohibited during the above hours upon the premises of the above permit holders who are authorized by their permit to sell beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor for on-premises consumption.

(c) No beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquid shall be sold or delivered by an A-1A, D-3 when issued with a D-3A, D-4A, D-5, D-5A, D-5B, D-5C, D-5D, D-5E, D-5F, D-5G, D-5I, D-5J, D-5l, D-5m, D-5n, D-5o, or D-7 permit holder:

- (1) From Monday to Saturday between the hours of two thirty a.m. and five thirty a.m.
- (2) On Sunday between the hours of two thirty a.m. and Sunday midnight, unless statutorily authorized otherwise.
- (3) Consumption of beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor is also prohibited during the above hours upon the premises of the above permit holders who are authorized by their permit to sell beer, wine, mixed beverages or spirituous liquor for on-premises consumption.

(d) Permit holders authorized to sell beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor at retail who are not specifically identified in subsection (b) or (c) above shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (b), unless statutorily authorized otherwise.

(e) The hours on Sunday during which sales, delivery, or consumption of alcoholic beverages may take place are established by statute, but in no event shall they begin prior to five thirty a.m. (OAC 4301:1-1-49)

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

#### **529.09 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON CITY PROPERTY; LICENSE REQUIRED.**

(a) No person, firm or corporation shall possess, possess for sale, sell or consume alcoholic beverages on property owned or leased by the City, unless such person, firm or corporation has in its possession a valid license issued for such purposes by Council.

(b) For purposes of this section, the phrase “owned or leased by the City” means all real and personal property in which the title of the same is vested in the City or is leased by the City. “Alcoholic beverage” means and includes all beverages containing any quantity of alcohol.

(c) Any person, firm or corporation desiring to obtain a license for the possession, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages, on property owned or leased by the City, is hereby required to submit a written application setting forth the following:

- (1) The name of the applicant.
- (2) If a corporation, partnership or association, the name and address of the principal officers or individuals.
- (3) The purpose for which the permit is sought.
- (4) The area proposed to be used.
- (5) The time sought for use.
- (6) The disposition of proceeds of the sale.

(d) If Council determines that it is just and proper to issue such license, a fee shall be set, which shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), and which may be waived by Council if the applicant is a corporation not for profit, and for charitable or civic products. No license shall be issued for a period longer than twenty-four consecutive hours.

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**529.10 PERMITTING ROWDYISM AND EXCESSIVE NOISE.**

(a) No person, firm or corporation owning or operating a restaurant, hotel, club, night club or other place where beer, wine and/or spirituous liquors are permitted to be sold under the authority of the Liquor Control Act of Ohio within the City, or other person representing such owner or operator shall permit or allow any riotous, noisy or disorderly person to frequent such restaurant, hotel, club, night club or other such place, or resort therein, or allow any boisterous, noisy or disorderly conduct therein or thereabouts at any time, or allow any singing or music of any kind or character after 12:00 midnight, which disturbs or annoys the neighborhood or the public.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**529.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

**CHAPTER 530**  
**Parks**

<b>530.01</b> Removal or destruction of property. <b>530.02</b> Deposit of materials. <b>530.03</b> Fires. <b>530.04</b> Camping. <b>530.05</b> Weapons. <b>530.06</b> Commercial activities. <b>530.07</b> Hours. <b>530.08</b> Traffic.	<b>530.09</b> Water areas. <b>530.10</b> Beer and intoxicating liquors. <b>530.11</b> Horses and other animals; hunting. <b>530.12</b> Applicability of other ordinances. <b>530.99</b> Penalty.
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CROSS REFERENCES

Speed limits - see TRAF. 333.03(b)(11)

Vandalism - see GEN. OFF. 541.04

Injury to trees, etc. - see GEN. OFF. 541.06

**530.01 REMOVAL OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.**

(a) No person shall remove from a park or write upon, cut, mutilate, deface or damage any building, equipment or other property which is owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the City.

(b) No person shall dig, move or carry away any rock, stone, sod, sand, earth, tree, wood, shrub, plant, flowers or seed in a park or trample upon, injure, destroy, break, cut, chop or deface any stone, tree, shrub, plant or flower in a park.

(c) No person shall remove any property, or part thereof which is owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the City from a park without the written permission of the City.

(d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the City in the development, construction, maintenance and conservation of park areas or activities performed in the best interest of the City.

(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

**530.02 DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS.**

(a) No person shall deposit or discard in or adjacent to a park any paper, garbage, fireplace or stove ashes, cigarette litter, refuse, or other noxious or waste material, other than in receptacles provided for the disposal of such materials.

(Ord. 1884-14. Passed 5-22-14.)

(b) No person shall bring into a park any garbage, ashes, refuse, or other noxious or waste material and deposit or discard the same in or adjacent to a park.

(c) No person shall, while in or adjacent to a park, discharge, throw, drop or cause to flow into park waters any noxious or deleterious substance, either solid or liquid.

(d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the City in the development, construction, maintenance and conservation of park areas or activities performed in the best interest of the City.

(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

#### **530.03 FIRES.**

No person shall: start or maintain a fire in a park except in a fireplace or at a site designated; start a fire in a park and leave the vicinity without fully extinguishing the fire; scatter coals other than in receptacles provided; burn wood found in a park except as provided by the City in designated containers.

(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

#### **530.04 CAMPING.**

No person shall camp in a park other than in an area designated and with the written permission of the City.

(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

#### **530.05 WEAPONS.**

No person in a park shall carry on or about his person air or gas guns or discharge any missile throwing device except in areas so designated for archery purposes. This section does not apply to any duly appointed or acting law enforcement officer which is in the lawful performance of his duties.

(Ord. 1834. Passed 8-9-12.)

#### **530.06 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.**

No person shall sell or offer for sale any article, privilege or service in a park without written permission from the City.

(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

#### **530.07 HOURS.**

No person shall enter into or remain in an area of a park at the time when such area is not open to the public. Hours shall be established by the City Manager and posted in the park. The Parks and Recreation Director or police shift supervisor in charge at the time shall be authorized to close a park if public safety requires it.

(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

#### **530.08 TRAFFIC.**

(a) No person shall:

- (1) Operate a motor vehicle whether licensed or unlicensed in a park except on and within the paths and roads provided for such motor vehicles, and no person shall drive a motor vehicle licensed or unlicensed on paths or roads to be only for the use of a specific type or types of vehicles.

- (2) Operate a motor vehicle in a park in excess of the posted speed limit.
- (3) Park any vehicle in a park except in places designated by the City for such purposes.
- (4) Park or leave a vehicle in an area of a park at a time when such area is not open to the public.
- (5) Drive a vehicle on a road or path in a park in a direction other than the direction indicated by signs designating such road or path a one-way road.
- (6) Operate a motorized bicycle, commonly known as a "Moped" as such term is defined in Section 301.04(b) of the Traffic Code, on lands, paved walks or paths on any property owned or controlled by the City, except within those areas specifically designated for motorized vehicular traffic.
- (7) The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles used in the maintenance of City property nor to City vehicles operated on such property by City employees, nor to vehicles operated on such property pursuant to a public event sponsored or approved by the City, nor to emergency or police vehicles.

(b) Any vehicle parked in violation of this section may be removed by a police officer to the nearest garage or other place of safety.  
(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

#### **530.09 WATER AREAS.**

(a) No person shall swim in any park, pond, or operate any boat on any park ponds, or on any permanently maintained water feature located in any parks or other property owned by the City of Moraine.

(b) Only those boats authorized and maintained by the City shall be permitted on any ponds or other permanent water features maintained by the City.

(c) There shall be no fishing from any boats on any ponds or other water features maintained by the City.

(d) There shall be no ice skating at the Pinnacle Road Park pond.  
(Ord. 1316-99. Passed 5-27-99.)

#### **530.10 BEER AND INTOXICATING LIQUORS.**

(a) No person shall sell or consume any intoxicating liquor or beer in or upon any City owned or controlled park, playground, buildings or other premises.

(b) No person shall possess or have control over any intoxicating liquor or beer in or upon any City owned or controlled park, playground, buildings or other premises.  
(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

#### **530.11 HORSES AND OTHER ANIMALS; HUNTING.**

(a) No person being the owner of or having charge or care of a horse, mule, jackass or other animal shall take them or permit them to be in or upon any City owned or operated park or recreational facility except by written permission of the City Manager granted for special occasions.  
(Ord. 828-88. Passed 9-8-88.)

(b) No person shall hunt, trap or in any other way abuse, molest, injure, or chase or destroy any animal or bird within a park. This section shall not apply to any public safety or humane society officers acting within the scope of their authority.  
(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

**530.12 APPLICABILITY OF OTHER ORDINANCES.**

This chapter shall not be construed to preclude the applicability of any other provision of the ordinances of the City or State statutes unless such provision is inconsistent with the terms of this chapter.  
(Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)

**530.99 PENALTY.**

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (Ord. 475. Passed 6-8-78.)



**CHAPTER 533**  
**Obscenity and Sex Offenses**

<p><b>533.01</b> Definitions.</p> <p><b>533.02</b> Presumption of knowledge; actual notice and defense.</p> <p><b>533.03</b> Unlawful sexual conduct with a minor.</p> <p><b>533.04</b> Sexual imposition.</p> <p><b>533.05</b> Importuning.</p> <p><b>533.06</b> Voyeurism.</p> <p><b>533.07</b> Public indecency.</p> <p><b>533.08</b> Procuring.</p> <p><b>533.09</b> Soliciting.</p>	<p><b>533.091</b> Loitering to engage in solicitation.</p> <p><b>533.10</b> Prostitution.</p> <p><b>533.11</b> Disseminating matter harmful to juveniles.</p> <p><b>533.12</b> Deception to obtain matter harmful to juveniles.</p> <p><b>533.13</b> Displaying matter harmful to juveniles.</p> <p><b>533.14</b> Unlawful advertising of massage.</p> <p><b>533.99</b> Penalty.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Complicity - see GEN. OFF. 501.10  
 Offensive conduct - see GEN. OFF. 509.03  
 Telephone harassment - see GEN. OFF. 537.10  
 Criminal trespass - see GEN. OFF. 541.05

**533.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Sexual conduct" means vaginal intercourse between a male and female; anal intercourse, fellatio and cunnilingus between persons regardless of sex; and, without privilege to do so, the insertion, however slight, of any part of the body or any instrument, apparatus or other object into the vaginal or anal opening of another. Penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete vaginal or anal intercourse.
- (b) "Sexual contact" means any touching of an erogenous zone of another, including without limitation the thigh, genitals, buttock, pubic region, or, if such person is a female, a breast, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying either person.
- (c) "Sexual activity" means sexual conduct or sexual contact, or both.
- (d) "Prostitute" means a male or female who promiscuously engages in sexual activity for hire, regardless of whether the hire is paid to the prostitute or to another.
- (e) "Harmful to juveniles" means that quality of any material or performance describing or representing nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sado-masochistic abuse in any form to which all of the following apply:

- (1) The material or performance, when considered as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of juveniles in sex.
  - (2) The material or performance is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for juveniles.
  - (3) The material or performance, when considered as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political and scientific value for juveniles.
- (f) When considered as a whole, and judged with reference to ordinary adults, or, if it is designed for sexual deviates or other specially susceptible group, judged with reference to such group, any material or performance is "obscene" if any of the following apply:
- (1) Its dominant appeal is to prurient interest;
  - (2) Its dominant tendency is to arouse lust by displaying or depicting sexual activity, masturbation, sexual excitement or nudity in a way which tends to represent human beings as mere objects of sexual appetite;
  - (3) Its dominant tendency is to arouse lust by displaying or depicting bestiality or extreme or bizarre violence, cruelty or brutality;
  - (4) Its dominant tendency is to appeal to scatological interest by displaying or depicting human bodily functions of elimination in a way which inspires disgust or revulsion in persons with ordinary sensibilities, without serving any genuine scientific, educational, sociological, moral or artistic purpose;
  - (5) It contains a series of displays or descriptions of sexual activity, masturbation, sexual excitement, nudity, bestiality, extreme or bizarre violence, cruelty or brutality, or human bodily functions of elimination, the cumulative effect of which is a dominant tendency to appeal to prurient or scatological interest, when the appeal to such interest is primarily for its own sake or for commercial exploitation, rather than primarily for a genuine scientific, educational, sociological, moral or artistic purpose.
- (g) "Sexual excitement" means the condition of human male or female genitals when in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal.
- (h) "Nudity" means the showing, representation or depiction of human male or female genitals, pubic area or buttocks with less than a full, opaque covering, or of a female breast with less than a full, opaque covering of any portion thereof below the top of the nipple, or of covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state.
- (i) "Juvenile" means an unmarried person under the age of eighteen.

- (j) "Material" means any book, magazine, newspaper, pamphlet, poster, print, picture, figure, image, description, motion picture film, phonographic record, or tape, or other tangible thing capable of arousing interest through sight, sound, or touch and includes an image or text appearing on a computer monitor, television screen, liquid crystal display, or similar display device or an image or text recorded on a computer hard disk, computer floppy disk, compact disk, magnetic tape or similar data storage device.
- (k) "Performance" means any motion picture, preview, trailer, play, show, skit, dance or other exhibition performed before an audience.
- (l) "Spouse" means a person married to an offender at the time of an alleged offense, except that such person shall not be considered the spouse when any of the following apply:
  - (1) When the parties have entered into a written separation agreement authorized by Ohio R.C. 3103.06;
  - (2) During the pendency of an action between the parties for annulment, divorce, dissolution of marriage or legal separation;
  - (3) In the case of an action for legal separation, after the effective date of the judgment for legal separation.
- (m) "Minor" means a person under the age of eighteen years.
- (n) "Mental health client or patient" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2305.51.
- (o) "Mental health professional" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2305.115.
- (p) "Sado-masochistic abuse" means flagellation or torture by or upon a person or the condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained.  
(ORC 2907.01)

**533.02 PRESUMPTION OF KNOWLEDGE; ACTUAL NOTICE AND DEFENSE.**

(a) An owner or manager, or agent or employee of an owner or manager, of a bookstore, newsstand, theater, or other commercial establishment engaged in selling materials or exhibiting performances, who, in the course of business does any of the acts prohibited by Section 533.11, is presumed to have knowledge of the character of the material or performance involved, if the owner, manager, or agent or employee of the owner or manager has actual notice of the nature of such material or performance, whether or not the owner, manager, or agent or employee of the owner or manager has precise knowledge of its contents.

(b) Without limitation on the manner in which such notice may be given, actual notice of the character of material or a performance may be given in writing by the chief legal officer of the jurisdiction in which the person to whom the notice is directed does business. Such notice, regardless of the manner in which it is given, shall identify the sender, identify the material or performance involved, state whether it is obscene or harmful to juveniles and bear the date of such notice.

(c) Section 533.11 does not apply to a motion picture operator or projectionist acting within the scope of employment as an employee of the owner or manager of a theater or other place for the showing of motion pictures to the general public, and having no managerial responsibility or financial interest in the operator's or projectionist's place of employment, other than wages.

- (d) (1) Sections 533.11, 533.12(a) and 533.13 do not apply to a person solely because the person provided access or connection to or from an electronic method of remotely transferring information not under that person's control, including having provided capabilities that are incidental to providing access or connection to or from the electronic method of remotely transferring the information, and that do not include the creation of the content of the material that is the subject of the access or connection.
- (2) Subsection (d)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who conspires with an entity actively involved in the creation or knowing distribution of material in violation of Section 533.11, 533.12 or 533.13, or who knowingly advertises the availability of material of that nature.
- (3) Subsection (d)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who provides access or connection to an electronic method of remotely transferring information that is engaged in the violation of Section 533.11, 533.12 or 533.13, and that contains content that person has selected and introduced into the electronic method of remotely transferring information or content over which that person exercises editorial control.

(e) An employer is not guilty of a violation of Section 533.11, 533.12, or 533.13 based on the actions of an employee or agent of the employer unless the employee's or agent's conduct is within the scope of employee's or agent's employment or agency, and the employer does either of the following:

- (1) With knowledge of the employee's or agent's conduct, the employer authorizes or ratifies the conduct.
- (2) The employer recklessly disregards the employee's or agent's conduct.

(f) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under Section 533.11 or 533.13 as the section applies to an image transmitted through the internet or another electronic method of remotely transmitting information that the person charged with violating the section has taken, in good faith, reasonable, effective, and appropriate actions under the circumstances to restrict or prevent access by juveniles to material that is harmful to juveniles, including any method that is feasible under available technology.

(g) If any provision of this section, or the application of any provision of this section to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this section or related sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To this end, the provisions are severable.  
(ORC 2907.35)

### **533.03 UNLAWFUL SEXUAL CONDUCT WITH A MINOR.**

(a) No person, who is eighteen years of age or older, shall engage in sexual conduct with another, who is not the spouse of the offender, when the offender knows the other person is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age, or the offender is reckless in that regard.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender is four years older or more than the other person, or if the offender has previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 2907.02, 2907.03 or 2907.04, or former Ohio R.C. 2907.12, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2907.04)

#### **533.04 SEXUAL IMPOSITION.**

(a) No person shall have sexual contact with another, not the spouse of the offender; cause another, not the spouse of the offender, to have sexual contact with the offender; or cause two or more persons to have sexual contact when any of the following applies:

- (1) The offender knows that the sexual contact is offensive to the other person, or one of the other persons, or is reckless in that regard.
- (2) The offender knows that the other person's or one of the other person's ability to appraise the nature of or control the offender's or touching person's conduct is substantially impaired.
- (3) The offender knows that the other person or one of the other persons submits because of being unaware of the sexual contact.
- (4) The other person or one of the other persons is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age, whether or not the offender knows the age of such person, and the offender is at least eighteen years of age and four or more years older than such other person.
- (5) The offender is a mental health professional, the other person or one of the other persons is a mental health client or patient of the offender, and the offender induces the other person who is the client or patient to submit by falsely representing to the other person who is the client or patient that the sexual contact is necessary for mental health treatment purposes.

(b) No person shall be convicted of a violation of this section solely upon the victim's testimony unsupported by other evidence.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of sexual imposition, a misdemeanor of the third degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.04, 2907.05, 2907.06 or 2907.12, or a substantially similar municipal ordinance, a violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2907.06)

#### **533.05 IMPORTUNING.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Section 533.05 has been deleted from the Codified Ordinances. Section 533.05 was identical to Ohio R.C. 2907.07(B) which the Ohio Supreme Court held to be unconstitutional in *State v. Thompson*, 95 Ohio St. 3rd 264 (2002).)

#### **533.06 VOYEURISM.**

(a) No person, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the person's self, shall commit trespass or otherwise surreptitiously invade the privacy of another, to spy or eavesdrop upon another.

(b) No person, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the person's self, shall commit trespass or otherwise surreptitiously invade the privacy of another to videotape, film, photograph, or otherwise record the other person in a state of nudity.

(c) No person shall secretly or surreptitiously videotape, film, photograph, or otherwise record another person under or through the clothing being worn by that other person for the purpose of viewing the body of, or the undergarments worn by, that other person.

- (d) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of voyeurism.  
(2) A violation of subsection (a) hereof is a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(3) A violation of subsection (b) hereof is a misdemeanor of the second degree.  
(4) A violation of subsection (c) hereof is a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 2907.08)

**533.07 PUBLIC INDECENCY.**

(a) No person shall recklessly do any of the following, under circumstances in which the person's conduct is likely to be viewed by and affront others, who are in the person's physical proximity and who are not members of the person's household:

- (1) Expose the person's private parts;  
(2) Engage in sexual conduct or masturbation;  
(3) Engage in conduct that to an ordinary observer would appear to be sexual conduct or masturbation.

(b) No person shall knowingly do any of the following, under circumstances in which the person's conduct is likely to be viewed by and affront another person who is a minor, who is not the spouse of the offender, and who resides in the person's household:

- (1) Engage in masturbation;  
(2) Engage in sexual conduct;  
(3) Engage in conduct that to an ordinary observer would appear to be sexual conduct or masturbation;  
(4) Expose the person's private parts with the purpose of personal sexual arousal or gratification or to lure the minor into sexual activity.

- (c) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of public indecency and shall be punished as provided in subsections (c)(2), (3), (4) and (5) of this section.  
(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, a violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of this section, a violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section is a misdemeanor of the third degree or, if any person who was likely to view and be affronted by the offender's conduct was a minor, a misdemeanor of the second degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two violations of this section, a violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section is a misdemeanor of the second degree or, if any person who was likely to view and be affronted by the offender's conduct was a minor, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of this section, a violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree or, if any person who was likely to view and be affronted by the offender's conduct was a minor, a felony which shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

- (3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(3) of this section, a violation of subsection (a)(2) or (3) of this section is a misdemeanor of the third degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of this section, a violation of subsection (a)(2) or (3) of this section is a misdemeanor of the second degree or, if any person who was likely to view and be affronted by the offender's conduct was a minor, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of this section, a violation of subsection (a)(2) or (3) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree or, if any person who was likely to view and be affronted by the offender's conduct was a minor, a felony which shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(4) of this section, a violation of subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section is a misdemeanor of the second degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of this section, a violation of subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of this section, a violation of subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
- (5) A violation of subsection (b)(4) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree unless the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any violation of this section in which case the violation is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law. (ORC 2907.09)

#### **533.08 PROCURING.**

- (a) No person, knowingly and for gain, shall do either of the following:
  - (1) Entice or solicit another to patronize a prostitute or brothel;
  - (2) Procure a prostitute for another to patronize, or take or direct another at his or her request to any place for the purpose of patronizing a prostitute.
- (b) No person, having authority or responsibility over the use of premises, shall knowingly permit such premises to be used for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity for hire.
- (c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of procuring. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (c), procuring is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the prostitute who is procured, patronized or otherwise involved in a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section is under sixteen years of age at the time of the violation, regardless of whether the offender who violates subsection (a)(2) of this section knows the prostitute's age, or if a prostitute who engages in sexual activity for hire in premises used in violation of subsection (b) of this section is under sixteen years of age at the time of the violation, regardless of whether the offender who violates subsection (b) of this section knows the prostitute's age, procuring is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law. If the prostitute who is procured, patronized or otherwise involved in a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section is sixteen or seventeen years of age at the time of the violation or if a prostitute who engages in sexual activity for hire in premises used in violation of subsection (b) of this section is sixteen or seventeen years of age at the time of the violation, procuring is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law. (ORC 2907.23)

#### **533.09 SOLICITING.**

- (a) No person shall solicit another who is eighteen years of age or older to engage with such other person in sexual activity for hire.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of soliciting, a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(c) If a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of any provision of this section or an attempt to commit a violation of any provision of this section, and if the person, in committing or attempting to commit the violation, was in, was on, or used a motor vehicle, the court, in addition to or independent of all other penalties imposed for the violation, shall impose upon the offender a class six suspension of the person's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(6) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. In lieu of imposing upon the offender the class six suspension, the court instead may require the offender to perform community service for a number of hours determined by the court.

(d) As used in this section, "sexual activity for hire" means an implicit or explicit agreement to provide sexual activity in exchange for anything of value paid to the person engaging in such sexual activity, to any person trafficking that person, or to any person associated with either such person. (ORC 2907.24)

#### **533.091 LOITERING TO ENGAGE IN SOLICITATION.**

(a) No person, with purpose to solicit another to engage in sexual activity for hire and while in or near a public place, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Beckon to, stop or attempt to stop another;
- (2) Engage or attempt to engage another in conversation;
- (3) Stop or attempt to stop the operator of a vehicle or approach a stationary vehicle;
- (4) If the offender is the operator of or a passenger in a vehicle, stop, attempt to stop, beckon to, attempt to beckon to, or entice another to approach or enter the vehicle of which the offender is the operator or in which the offender is the passenger;
- (5) Interfere with the free passage of another.

(b) As used in this section:

- (1) "Vehicle" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4501.01.
- (2) "Public place" means any of the following:
  - A. A street, road, highway, thoroughfare, bikeway, walkway, sidewalk, bridge, alley, alleyway, plaza, park, driveway, parking lot, or transportation facility;
  - B. A doorway or entrance way to a building that fronts on a place described in subsection (b)(2)A. hereof;
  - C. A place not described in subsection (b)(2)A. or B. hereof that is open to the public.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of loitering to engage in solicitation, a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 2907.241)

#### **533.10 PROSTITUTION.**

(a) No person shall engage in sexual activity for hire.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of prostitution, a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 2907.25)



**533.11 DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES.**

(a) No person, with knowledge of its character or content, shall recklessly do any of the following:

- (1) Directly sell, deliver, furnish, disseminate, provide, exhibit, rent or present to a juvenile, a group of juveniles, a law enforcement officer posing as a juvenile, or a group of law enforcement officers posing as juveniles any material or performance that is obscene or harmful to juveniles;
- (2) Directly offer or agree to sell, deliver, furnish, disseminate, provide, exhibit, rent or present to a juvenile, a group of juveniles, a law enforcement officer posing as a juvenile, or a group of law enforcement officers posing as juveniles any material or performance that is obscene or harmful to juveniles;
- (3) While in the physical proximity of the juvenile or law enforcement officer posing as a juvenile, allow any juvenile or law enforcement officer posing as a juvenile to review or peruse any material or view any live performance that is harmful to juveniles.

(b) The following are affirmative defenses to a charge under this section, that involves material or a performance that is harmful to juveniles but not obscene:

- (1) The defendant is the parent, guardian or spouse of the juvenile involved.
- (2) The juvenile involved, at the time of the conduct in question, was accompanied by the juvenile's parent or guardian who, with knowledge of its character, consented to the material or performance being furnished or presented to the juvenile.
- (3) The juvenile exhibited to the defendant or the defendant's agent or employee a draft card, driver's license, birth certificate, marriage license, or other official or apparently official document purporting to show that the juvenile was eighteen years of age or over or married, and the person to whom that document was exhibited did not otherwise have reasonable cause to believe that the juvenile was under the age of eighteen and unmarried.

- (c)
- (1) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section, involving material or a performance that is obscene or harmful to juveniles, that the material or performance was furnished or presented for a bona fide medical, scientific, educational, governmental, judicial or other proper purpose, by a physician, psychologist, sociologist, scientist, teacher, librarian, clergyman, prosecutor, judge or other proper person.
  - (2) Except as provided in subsection (b)(3) hereof, mistake of age is not a defense to a charge under this section.

- (d)
- (1) A person directly sells, delivers, furnishes, disseminates, provides, exhibits, rents, or presents or directly offers or agrees to sell, deliver, furnish, disseminate, provide, exhibit, rent, or present material or a performance to a juvenile, a group of juveniles, a law enforcement officer posing as a juvenile, or a group of law enforcement officers posing as juveniles in violation of this section by means of an electronic method of remotely transmitting information if the person knows or has reason to believe that the person receiving the information is a juvenile or the group of persons receiving the information are juveniles.

- (2) A person remotely transmitting information by means of a method of mass distribution does not directly sell, deliver, furnish, disseminate, provide, exhibit, rent, or present or directly offer or agree to sell, deliver, furnish, disseminate, provide, exhibit, rent, or present the material or performance in question to a juvenile, a group of juveniles, a law enforcement officer posing as a juvenile, or a group of law enforcement officers posing as juveniles in violation of this section if either of the following applies:
- A. The person has inadequate information to know or have reason to believe that a particular recipient of the information or offer is a juvenile.
  - B. The method of mass distribution does not provide the person the ability to prevent a particular recipient from receiving the information.

(e) If any provision of this section, or the application of any provision of this section to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this section or related sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To this end, the provisions are severable.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of disseminating matter harmful to juveniles. If the material or performance involved is harmful to juveniles, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the material or performance involved is obscene, a violation of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2907.31)

#### **533.12 DECEPTION TO OBTAIN MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES.**

(a) No person, for the purpose of enabling a juvenile to obtain any material or gain admission to any performance which is harmful to juveniles shall do either of the following:

- (1) Falsely represent that he is the parent, guardian or spouse of such juvenile;
- (2) Furnish such juvenile with any identification or document purporting to show that such juvenile is eighteen years of age or over or married.

(b) No juvenile, for the purpose of obtaining any material or gaining admission to any performance which is harmful to juveniles, shall do either of the following:

- (1) Falsely represent that he is eighteen years of age or over or married;
- (2) Exhibit any identification or document purporting to show that he is eighteen years of age or over or married.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of deception to obtain matter harmful to juveniles, a misdemeanor of the second degree. A juvenile who violates subsection (b) hereof shall be adjudged an unruly child, with such disposition of the case as may be appropriate under Ohio R.C. Chapter 2151. (ORC 2907.33)

#### **533.13 DISPLAYING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES.**

(a) No person who has custody, control or supervision of a commercial establishment, with knowledge of the character or content of the material involved, shall display at the establishment any material that is harmful to juveniles and that is open to view by juveniles as part of the invited general public.

(b) It is not a violation of subsection (a) hereof if the material in question is displayed by placing it behind "blinder racks" or similar devices that cover at least the lower two-thirds of the material, if the material in question is wrapped or placed behind the counter, or if the material in question otherwise is covered or located so that the portion that is harmful to juveniles is not open to the view of juveniles.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of displaying matter harmful to juveniles, a misdemeanor of the first degree. Each day during which the offender is in violation of this section constitutes a separate offense. (ORC 2907.311)

**533.14 UNLAWFUL ADVERTISING OF MASSAGE.**

(a) No person, by means of a statement, solicitation, or offer in a print or electronic publication, sign, placard, storefront display, or other medium, shall advertise massage, relaxation massage, any other massage technique or method, or any related service, with the suggestion or promise of sexual activity.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of unlawful advertising of massage, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(c) Nothing in this section prevents the legislative authority of a municipal corporation or township from enacting any regulation of the advertising of massage further than and in addition to the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.  
(ORC 2927.17)

**533.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)



**CHAPTER 537**  
**Offenses Against Persons**

<b>537.01</b>	<b>Negligent homicide.</b>	<b>537.11</b>	<b>Telecommunication; recklessly engaging in harassment.</b>
<b>537.02</b>	<b>Vehicular homicide and manslaughter.</b>	<b>537.12</b>	<b>Misuse of 9-1-1 system.</b>
<b>537.021</b>	<b>Vehicular assault in a construction zone.</b>	<b>537.13</b>	<b>Adulterating of or furnishing adulterated food or confection.</b>
<b>537.03</b>	<b>Assault.</b>	<b>537.14</b>	<b>(Reserved)</b>
<b>537.04</b>	<b>Negligent assault.</b>	<b>537.15</b>	<b>(Reserved)</b>
<b>537.05</b>	<b>Aggravated menacing.</b>	<b>537.16</b>	<b>Illegal distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products or alternate nicotine products.</b>
<b>537.051</b>	<b>Menacing by stalking.</b>	<b>537.17</b>	<b>Criminal child enticement.</b>
<b>537.06</b>	<b>Menacing.</b>	<b>537.18</b>	<b>Contributing to unruliness or delinquency of a child.</b>
<b>537.07</b>	<b>Endangering children.</b>	<b>537.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>
<b>537.08</b>	<b>Unlawful restraint.</b>		
<b>537.09</b>	<b>Coercion.</b>		
<b>537.10</b>	<b>Telecommunication; knowingly engaging in harassment.</b>		

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
Physical harm to persons defined - see GEN. OFF.  
501.01 (c), (e)  
Fighting; provoking violent response - see GEN. OFF. 509.03

**537.01 NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE.**

(a) No person shall negligently cause the death of another or the unlawful termination of another's pregnancy by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance as defined in Section 549.01.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of negligent homicide, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2903.05)

**537.02 VEHICULAR HOMICIDE AND MANSLAUGHTER.**

(a) No person, while operating or participating in the operation of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, snowmobile, locomotive, watercraft, or aircraft, shall cause the death of another or the unlawful termination of another's pregnancy in any of the following ways:

(1) A. Negligently;

- B. As the proximate result of committing, while operating or participating in the operation of a motor vehicle or motorcycle in a construction zone, a speeding offense, provided that this subsection applies only if the person whose death is caused or whose pregnancy is unlawfully terminated is in the construction zone at the time of the offender's commission of the speeding offense in the construction zone and does not apply as described in subsection (d) of this section.
- (2) As the proximate result of committing a violation of any provision of any section contained in Title XLV of the Ohio Revised Code that is a minor misdemeanor or of a municipal ordinance that, regardless of the penalty set by ordinance for the violation, is substantially equivalent to any provision of any section contained in Title XLV of the Ohio Revised Code that is a minor misdemeanor.
- (b) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a)(1) of this section is guilty of vehicular homicide. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, vehicular homicide is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Vehicular homicide is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law if, at the time of the offense, the offender was driving under a suspension or cancellation imposed under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4510 or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code or was operating a motor vehicle or motorcycle, did not have a valid driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege, and was not eligible for renewal of the offender's driver's license or commercial driver's license without examination under Ohio R.C. 4507.10 or if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of this section or any traffic-related homicide, manslaughter or assault offense. The court shall impose a mandatory jail term on the offender when required by Ohio R.C. 2903.06(E).
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of vehicular manslaughter. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, vehicular manslaughter is a misdemeanor of the second degree. Vehicular manslaughter is a misdemeanor of the first degree if, at the time of the offense, the offender was driving under a suspension or cancellation imposed under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4510 or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code or was operating a motor vehicle or motorcycle, did not have a valid driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege, and was not eligible for renewal of the offender's driver's license or commercial driver's license without examination under Ohio R.C. 4507.10 or if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of this section or any traffic-related homicide, manslaughter, or assault offense.
- (c) The court shall impose a mandatory jail term of at least fifteen days on an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (a)(1)B. of this section and may impose upon the offender a longer jail term as authorized pursuant to Section 501.99. The court shall impose a mandatory prison term on an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (a)(1)A. hereof if either of the following applies:
- (1) The offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of this section or Ohio R.C. 2903.06 or 2903.08.

- (2) At the time of the offense, the offender was driving under suspension or cancellation under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4510 or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code or was operating a motor vehicle or motorcycle, did not have a valid driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege, and was not eligible for renewal of the offender's driver's license or commercial driver's license without examination under Ohio R.C. 4507.10.

(d) Subsection (a)(1)B. does not apply in a particular construction zone unless signs of the type described in Ohio R.C. 2903.081 are erected in that construction zone in accordance with the guidelines and design specifications established by the Director of Transportation under Ohio R.C. 5501.27. The failure to erect signs of the type described in Ohio R.C. 2903.081 in a particular construction zone in accordance with those guidelines and design specifications does not limit or affect the application of subsections (a)(1)A. or (a)(2) of this section in that construction zone or the prosecution of any person who violates any of those subsections in that construction zone.

- (e) As used in this section:
  - (1) "Mandatory prison term" and "mandatory jail term" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
  - (2) "Traffic-related homicide, manslaughter or assault offense" means a violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.04 in circumstances in which division (D) of that section applies, a violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.06 or 2903.08, or a violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.06, 2903.07 or 2903.08 as they existed prior to March 23, 2000.

- (3) “Construction zone” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 5501.27.
- (4) “Speeding offense” means a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or a municipal ordinance pertaining to speed.

(f) For the purposes of this section, when a penalty or suspension is enhanced because of a prior or current violation of a specified law or a prior or current specified offense, the reference to the violation of the specified law or the specified offense includes any violation of any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, former law of this State, or current or former law of another state or the United States. (ORC 2903.06)

(g) The court imposing a sentence upon an offender for any violation of this section also shall impose a suspension of the offender’s driver’s license, commercial driver’s license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02 that is equivalent in length to the suspension required for a violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.06 under similar circumstances. (ORC 4510.07)

#### **537.021 VEHICULAR ASSAULT IN A CONSTRUCTION ZONE.**

(a) No person, while operating or participating in the operation of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, snowmobile, locomotive, watercraft, or aircraft, shall cause serious physical harm to another person or another’s unborn as the proximate result of committing, while operating or participating in the operation of a motor vehicle or motorcycle in a construction zone, a speeding offense. This subsection applies only if the person to whom the serious physical harm is caused or to whose unborn the serious physical harm is caused is in the construction zone at the time of the offender’s commission of the speeding offense in the construction zone and does not apply as described in subsection (d) hereof.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of vehicular assault. Except as provided in this subsection, vehicular assault is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Vehicular assault is a felony if, at the time of the offense, the offender was driving under a suspension imposed under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4510, or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code or if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of this section or any traffic-related homicide, manslaughter, or assault offense, and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

In addition to any other sanctions imposed, the court shall impose upon the offender a class four suspension of the offender’s driver’s license, commercial driver’s license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(4) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02.

(c) The court shall impose a mandatory jail term of at least seven days on an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section and may impose upon the offender a longer jail term as authorized pursuant to Section 501.99.



(d) This section does not apply in a particular construction zone unless signs of the type described in Ohio R.C. 2903.081 are erected in that construction zone in accordance with the guidelines and design specifications established by the Director of Transportation under Ohio R.C. 5501.27.

(e) As used in this section:

- (1) "Mandatory jail term" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
- (2) "Traffic-related homicide, manslaughter or assault offense" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2903.06.
- (3) "Construction zone" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 5501.27.
- (4) "Speeding offense" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2903.06.

(f) For the purposes of this section, when a penalty or suspension is enhanced because of a prior or current violation of a specified law or a prior or current specified offense, the reference to the violation of the specified law or the specified offense includes any violation of any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, former law of this State, or current or former law of another state or the United States. (ORC 2903.08)

### **537.03 ASSAULT.**

(a) No person shall knowingly cause or attempt to cause physical harm to another or to another's unborn.

(b) No person shall recklessly cause serious physical harm to another or to another's unborn.

- (c)
- (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of assault, a misdemeanor of the first degree, and the court shall sentence the offender as provided in subsection (c) hereof. If the assault was committed under the circumstances provided in subsection (c)(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) or (9) hereof, assault is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
  - (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the offense is committed by a caretaker against a functionally impaired person under the caretaker's care.
  - (3) If the offense occurs in or on the grounds of a State correctional institution or an institution of the Department of Youth Services, the victim of the offense is an employee of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or the Department of Youth Services, and the offense is committed by a person incarcerated in the State correctional institution or by a person institutionalized in the Department of Youth Services Institution pursuant to a commitment to the Department of Youth Services.
  - (4) If the offense is committed in any of the following circumstances:
    - A. The offense occurs in or on the grounds of a local correctional facility, the victim of the offense is an employee of the local correctional facility or a probation department or is on the premises of the facility for business purposes or as a visitor, and the offense is committed by a person who is under custody in the facility subsequent to the person's arrest for any crime or delinquent act, subsequent to the person's being charged with or convicted of any crime, or subsequent to the person's being alleged to be or adjudicated a delinquent child.

- B. The offense occurs off the grounds of a State correctional institution and off the grounds of an institution of the Department of Youth Services, the victim of the offense is an employee of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Department of Youth Services, or a probation department, the offense occurs during the employee's official work hours and while the employee is engaged in official work responsibilities, and the offense is committed by a person incarcerated in a State correctional institution or institutionalized in the Department of Youth Services who temporarily is outside of the institution for any purpose, by a parolee, by an offender under transitional control, under a community control sanction, or on an escorted visit, by a person under post-release control, or by an offender under any other type of supervision by a government agency.
  - C. The offense occurs off the grounds of a local correctional facility, the victim of the offense is an employee of the local correctional facility or a probation department, the offense occurs during the employee's official work hours and while the employee is engaged in official work responsibilities, and the offense is committed by a person who is under custody in the facility subsequent to the person's arrest for any crime or delinquent act, subsequent to the person being charged with or convicted of any crime, or subsequent to the person being alleged to be or adjudicated a delinquent child and who temporarily is outside of the facility for any purpose or by a parolee, by an offender under transitional control, under a community control sanction, or on an escorted visit, by a person under post-release control, or by an offender under any other type of supervision by a government agency.
  - D. The victim of the offense is a school teacher or administrator or a school bus operator, and the offense occurs in a school, on school premises, in a school building, on a school bus or while the victim is outside of school premises or a school bus and is engaged in duties or official responsibilities associated with the victim's employment or position as a school teacher or administrator or a school bus operator, including, but not limited to, driving, accompanying, or chaperoning students at or on class or field trips, athletic events, or other school extracurricular activities or functions outside of school premises.
- (5) If the victim of the offense is a peace officer or an investigator of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, a firefighter, or a person performing emergency medical service, while in the performance of their official duties.
  - (6) If the victim of the offense is a peace officer or an investigator of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and if the victim suffered serious physical harm as a result of the commission of the offense.

- (7) If the victim of the offense is an officer or employee of a public children services agency or a private child placing agency and the offense relates to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties.
- (8) If the victim of the offense is a health care professional of a hospital, a health care worker of a hospital, or a security officer of a hospital whom the offender knows or has reasonable cause to know is a health care professional of a hospital; a health care worker of a hospital, or a security officer of a hospital, if the victim is engaged in the performance of the victim's duties, and if the hospital offers de-escalation or crisis intervention training for such professionals, workers or officers, assault is one of the following:
- A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(8)B. of this section, assault committed in the specified circumstances is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Notwithstanding the fine specified in division (A)(2)(b) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28 for a misdemeanor of the first degree, in sentencing the offender under this subsection and if the court decides to impose a fine, the court may impose upon the offender a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
  - B. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more assault or homicide offenses committed against hospital personnel, assault committed in the specified circumstances is a felony.
- (9) If the victim of the offense is a judge, magistrate, prosecutor or court official or employee whom the offender knows or has reasonable cause to know is a judge, magistrate, prosecutor or court official or employee, and if the victim is engaged in the performance of the victim's duties, assault is one of the following:
- A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(9)B. of this section, assault committed in the specified circumstances is a misdemeanor of the first degree. In sentencing the offender under this subsection, if the court decides to impose a fine, notwithstanding the fine specified in division (A)(2)(b) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28 for a misdemeanor of the first degree, the court may impose upon the offender a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
  - B. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more assault or homicide offenses committed against justice system personnel, assault committed in the specified circumstances is a felony.
- (10) If an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to assault when it is a misdemeanor also is convicted of or pleads guilty to a specification as described in Ohio R.C. 2941.1423 that was included in the indictment, count in the indictment or information charging the offense, the court shall sentence the offender to a mandatory jail term as provided in division (G) of Ohio R.C. 2929.24.

- (d) As used in this section:
- (1) “Peace officer” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2935.01.
  - (2) “Firefighter” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 3937.41.
  - (3) “Emergency medical service” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4765.01.
  - (4) “Local correctional facility” means a county, multicounty, municipal, municipal-county or multicounty-municipal jail or workhouse. A minimum security jail established under Ohio R.C. 341.23 or 753.21, or another county, multicounty, municipal, municipal-county, or multicounty-municipal facility used for the custody of persons arrested for any crime or delinquent act, persons charged with or convicted of any crime, or persons alleged to be or adjudicated a delinquent child.
  - (5) “Employee of a local correctional facility” means a person who is an employee of the political subdivision or of one or more of the affiliated political subdivisions that operates the local correctional facility and who operates or assists in the operation of the facility.
  - (6) “School teacher or administrator” means either of the following:
    - A. A person who is employed in the public schools of the State under a contract described in Ohio R.C. 3311.77 or 3319.08 in a position in which the person is required to have a certificate issued pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3319.22 to 3319.311.
    - B. A person who is employed by a nonpublic school for which the State Board of Education prescribes minimum standards under Ohio R.C. 3301.07 and who is certified in accordance with Ohio R.C. 3301.071.
  - (7) “Community control sanction” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
  - (8) “Escorted visit” means an escorted visit granted under Ohio R.C. 2967.27.
  - (9) “Post-release control” and “transitional control” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2967.01.
  - (10) “Investigator of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2903.11.
  - (11) “Health care professional” and “health care worker” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2305.234.
  - (12) “Assault or homicide offense committed against hospital personnel” means a violation of this section or Ohio R.C. 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, 2903.04, 2903.041, 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13 or 2903.14 committed in circumstances in which all of the following apply:
    - A. The victim of the offense was a health care professional of a hospital, a health care worker of a hospital or a security officer of a hospital.
    - B. The offender knew or had reasonable cause to know that the victim was a health care professional of a hospital, a health care worker of a hospital, or a security officer of a hospital;

- C. The victim was engaged in the performance of the victim's duties.
- D. The hospital offered de-escalation or crisis intervention training for such professionals, workers or officers.
- (13) "De-escalation or crisis intervention training" means de-escalation or crisis intervention training for health care professionals of a hospital, health care workers of a hospital, and security officers of a hospital to facilitate interaction with patients, members of a patient's family, and visitors, including those with mental impairments.
- (14) "Assault or homicide offense committed against justice system personnel" means a violation of this section or of Ohio R.C. 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, 2903.04, 2903.041, 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13 or 2903.14 committed in circumstances in which the victim of the offense was a judge, magistrate, prosecutor, or court official or employee whom the offender knew or had reasonable cause to know was a judge, magistrate, prosecutor, or court official or employee, and the victim was engaged in the performance of the victim's duties.
- (15) "Court official or employee" means any official or employee of a court created under the constitution or statutes of this State or of a United States court located in this State.
- (16) "Judge" means a judge of a court created under the constitution or statutes of this State or of a United States court located in this State.
- (17) "Magistrate" means an individual who is appointed by a court of record of this State and who has the powers and may perform the functions specified in Civil Rule 53, Criminal Rule 19, or Juvenile Rule 40, or an individual who is appointed by a United States court located in this State who has similar powers and functions.
- (18) "Prosecutor" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2935.01.
- (19) A. "Hospital" means, subject to subsection (d)(19)B. of this section, an institution classified as a hospital under Ohio R.C. 3701.01 in which are provided to patients diagnostic, medical, surgical, obstetrical, psychiatric, or rehabilitation care or a hospital operated by a health maintenance organization.
- B. "Hospital" does not include any of the following:
1. A facility licensed under Ohio R.C. Chapter 3721, a health care facility operated by the Department of Mental Health or the Department of Developmental Disabilities, a health maintenance organization that does not operate a hospital, or the office of any private, licensed health care professional, whether organized for individual or group practice;
  2. An institution for the sick that is operated exclusively for patients who use spiritual means for healing and for whom the acceptance of medical care is inconsistent with their religious beliefs, accredited by a national accrediting organization, exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986", 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 1, as amended, and providing twenty-four-hour nursing care pursuant to the exemption in division (E) of Ohio R.C. 4723.32 from the licensing requirements of Ohio R.C. Chapter 4723.
- (20) "Health maintenance organization" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 3727.01. (ORC 2903.13)

**537.04 NEGLIGENT ASSAULT.**

(a) No person shall negligently, by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance as defined in Section 549.01 cause physical harm to another or to another's unborn.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of negligent assault, a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 2903.14)

**537.05 AGGRAVATED MENACING.**

(a) No person shall knowingly cause another to believe that the offender will cause serious physical harm to the person or property of the other person, the other person's unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family.

(b) No person shall recklessly cause another to believe that the offender will cause serious physical harm to the person or property of the other person, the other person's unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family.

(c) Whoever violates this subsection (a) or (b) is guilty of aggravated menacing. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (c) (b), aggravated menacing is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the victim of the offense is an officer or employee of a public children services agency or a private child placing agency and the offense relates to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties, or, if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to an offense of violence, the victim of that prior offense was an officer or employee of a public children services agency or private child placing agency, and that prior offense related to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties, aggravated menacing is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (Ord. 1936-15. Passed 12-10-15.)

**537.051 MENACING BY STALKING.**

- (a) (1) No person by engaging in a pattern of conduct shall knowingly cause another person to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the other person or a family or household member of the other person or cause mental distress to the other person or a family or household member of the other person. In addition to any other basis for the other person's belief that the offender will cause physical harm to the other person or the other person's family or household member or mental distress to the other person or the other person's family or household member, the other person's belief or mental distress may be based on words or conduct of the offender that are directed at or identify a corporation, association or other organization that employs the other person or to which the other person belongs.
- (2) No person, through the use of any form of written communication or any electronic method of remotely transferring information, including, but not limited to, any computer, computer network, computer program, computer system or telecommunication device shall post a message or use any intentionally written or verbal graphic gesture with purpose to do either of the following:
- A. Violate subsection (a)(1) of this section;
  - B. Urge or incite another to commit a violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section.
- (3) No person, with sexual motivation, shall violate subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section.

- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of menacing by stalking.
- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b)(2) and (3) of this section, menacing by stalking is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
  - (2) Menacing by stalking is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law if any of the following applies:
    - A. The offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of this section or a violation of Section 541.051.
    - B. In committing the offense under subsection (a)(1), (2), or (3) of this section, the offender made a threat of physical harm to or against the victim, or as a result of an offense committed under subsection (a)(2) or (3) of this section, a third person induced by the offender's posted message made a threat of physical harm to or against the victim.
    - C. In committing the offense under subsection (a)(1), (2), or (3) of this section, the offender trespassed on the land or premises where the victim lives, is employed, or attends school, or as a result of an offense committed under subsection (a)(2) or (3) of this section, a third person induced by the offender's posted message trespassed on the land or premises where the victim lives, is employed, or attends school.
    - D. The victim of the offense is a minor.
    - E. The offender has a history of violence toward the victim or any other person or a history of other violent acts toward the victim or any other person.
    - F. While committing the offense under subsection (a)(1) of this section or a violation of subsection (a)(3) of this section is based on conduct in violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section, the offender had a deadly weapon on or about the offender's person or under the offender's control. Subsection (b)(2)F. of this section does not apply in determining the penalty for a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section or a violation of subsection (a)(3) of this section based on conduct in violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section.
    - G. At the time of the commission of the offense, the offender was the subject of a protection order issued under Ohio R.C. 2903.213 or 2903.214, regardless of whether the person to be protected under the order is the victim of the offense or another person.
    - H. In committing the offense under subsection (a)(1), (2), or (3) of this section, the offender caused serious physical harm to the premises at which the victim resides, to the real property on which that premises is located, or to any personal property located on that premises, or as a result of an offense committed under subsection (a)(2) of this section, or an offense committed under subsection (a)(3) of this section based on a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section, a third person induced by the offender's posted message caused serious physical harm to that premises, that real property, or any personal property on that premises.
    - I. Prior to committing the offense, the offender had been determined to represent a substantial risk of physical harm to others as manifested by evidence of then-recent homicidal or other violent behavior, evidence of then-recent threats that placed another in reasonable fear of violent behavior and serious physical harm, or other evidence of then-present dangerousness.

- (3) If the victim of the offense is an officer or employee of a public children services agency or a private child placing agency and the offense relates to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties, or, if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to an offense of violence, the victim of that prior offense was an officer or employee of a public children services agency or private child placing agency, and that prior offense related to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities, or duties, menacing by stalking is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(c) Ohio R.C. 2919.271 applies in relation to a defendant charged with a violation of this section.

(d) As used in this section:

- (1) "Pattern of conduct" means two or more actions or incidents closely related in time, whether or not there has been a prior conviction based on any of those actions or incidents, or two or more actions or incidents closely related in time, whether or not there has been a prior conviction based on any of those actions or incidents, directed at one or more persons employed by or belonging to the same corporation, association, or other organization. Actions or incidents that prevent, obstruct, or delay the performance by a public official, firefighter, rescuer, emergency medical services person, or emergency facility person of any authorized act within the public official's, firefighter's, rescuer's, emergency medical services person's, or emergency facility person's official capacity, or the posting of messages, use of intentionally written or verbal graphic gestures, or receipt of information or data through the use of any form of written communication or an electronic method of remotely transferring information, including, but not limited to, a computer, computer network, computer program, computer system, or telecommunications device, may constitute a "pattern of conduct".
- (2) "Mental distress" means any of the following:
  - A. Any mental illness or condition that involves some temporary substantial incapacity;
  - B. Any mental illness or condition that would normally require psychiatric treatment, psychological treatment, or other mental health services, whether or not any person requested or received psychiatric treatment, psychological treatment, or other mental health services.
- (3) "Emergency medical services person" is the singular of "emergency medical services personnel" as defined in Ohio R.C. 2133.21.
- (4) "Emergency facility person" is the singular of "emergency facility personnel" as defined in Ohio R.C. 2909.04.
- (5) "Public official" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2921.01.
- (6) "Computer", "computer network", "computer program", "computer system" and "telecommunications device" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01.



- (7) “Post a message” means transferring, sending, posting, publishing, disseminating or otherwise communicating, or attempting to transfer, send, post, publish, disseminate or otherwise communication, any message or information, whether truthful or untruthful, about an individual, and whether done under one’s own name, under the name of another, or while impersonating another.
- (8) “Third person” means, in relation to conduct as described in subsection (a)(2) of this section, an individual who is neither the offender nor the victim of the conduct.
- (9) “Sexual motivation” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2971.01.
- (10) “Organization” includes an entity that is a governmental employer.
- (11) “Family or household member” means any of the following:
- A. Any of the following who is residing or has resided with the person against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(1) of this section is committed:
    - 1. A spouse, a person living as a spouse, or a former spouse of the person;
    - 2. A parent, a foster parent, or a child of the person, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to the person;
    - 3. A parent or a child of a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the person, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the person.
  - B. The natural parent of any child of whom the person against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(1) of this section is committed is the other natural parent or is the putative other natural parent.
- (12) “Person living as a spouse” means a person who is living or has lived with the person against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(1) of this section is committed in a common law marital relationship, who otherwise is cohabiting with that person, or who otherwise has cohabited with the person within five years prior to the date of the alleged commission of the act in question.

(e) The Municipality does not need to prove in a prosecution under this section that a person requested or received psychiatric treatment, psychological treatment, or other mental health services in order to show that the person was caused mental distress as described in subsection (d)(2)B. of this section.

- (f) (1) This section does not apply to a person solely because the person provided access or connection to or from an electronic method of remotely transferring information not under that person’s control, including having provided capabilities that are incidental to providing access or connection to or from the electronic method of remotely transferring the information, and that do not include the creation of the content of the material that is the subject of the access or connection. In addition, any person providing access or connection to or from an electronic method of remotely transferring information not under that person’s control shall not be liable for any action voluntarily taken in good faith to block the receipt or transmission through its service of any information that it believes is, or will be sent, in violation of this section.

- (2) Subsection (f)(1) of this section does not create an affirmative duty for any person providing access or connection to or from an electronic method of remotely transferring information not under that person's control to block the receipt or transmission through its service of any information that it believes is, or will be sent, in violation of this section except as otherwise provided by law.
- (3) Subsection (f)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who conspires with a person actively involved in the creation or knowing distribution of material in violation of this section or who knowingly advertises the availability of material of that nature. (ORC 2903.211)

#### **537.06 MENACING.**

(a) No person shall knowingly cause another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the person or property of the other person, the other person's unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family.

(b) No person shall recklessly cause another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the person or property of the other person, the other person's unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) is guilty of menacing. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (b), menacing is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If the victim of the offense is an officer or employee of a public children services agency or a private child placing agency and the offense relates to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties, or, if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to an offense of violence, the victim of that prior offense was an officer or employee of a public children services agency or private child placing agency, and that prior offense related to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties, menacing is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (Ord. 1936-15. Passed 12-10-15.)

#### **537.07 ENDANGERING CHILDREN.**

(a) No person, who is the parent, guardian, custodian, person having custody or control, or person in loco parentis of a child under eighteen years of age or a mentally or physically handicapped child under twenty-one years of age, shall create a substantial risk to the health or safety of the child, by violating a duty of care, protection or support. It is not a violation of a duty of care, protection or support under this subsection when the parent, guardian, custodian or person having custody or control of a child treats the physical or mental illness or defect of the child by spiritual means through prayer alone, in accordance with the tenets of a recognized religious body.

(b) No person shall abuse a child under eighteen years of age or a mentally or physically handicapped child under twenty-one years of age.

- (c) (1) No person shall operate a vehicle in violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code when one or more children under eighteen years of age are in the vehicle. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may be convicted at the same trial or proceeding of a violation of subsection (c) hereof and a violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code that constitutes the basis of the charge of the violation of subsection (c) hereof. For purposes of Ohio R.C. 4511.191 to 4511.197 and all related provisions of law, a person arrested for a violation of subsection (c) hereof shall be considered to be under arrest for operating a vehicle while

- under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or for operating a vehicle with a prohibited concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine.
- (2) As used in subsection (c) hereof:
    - A. "Controlled substance" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 3719.01.
    - B. "Vehicle" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.
  - (d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of endangering children.
    - (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the violation results in serious physical harm to the child involved, or if the offender previously has been convicted of an offense under this section, Ohio R.C. 2919.22 or of any offense involving neglect, abandonment, contributing to the delinquency of or physical abuse of a child, endangering children is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
    - (2) Whoever violates subsection (c) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. Endangering children is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law if either of the following applies:
      - A. The violation results in serious physical harm to the child involved or the offender previously has been convicted of an offense under Ohio R.C. 2919.22 or any offense involving neglect, abandonment, contributing to the delinquency of, or physical abuse of a child.
      - B. The violation results in serious physical harm to the child involved and the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 2919.22(C) or subsection (c) hereof, Ohio R.C. 2903.06, or 2903.08, Section 2903.07 as it existed prior to March 23, 2000, or Ohio R.C. 2903.04 in a case in which the offender was subject to the sanctions described in division (D) of that section.
    - (3) In addition to any term of imprisonment, fine, or other sentence, penalty, or sanction it imposes upon the offender pursuant to subsection (d)(2) hereof, or pursuant to any other provision of law, the court also may impose upon the offender any of the sanctions provided under Ohio R.C. 2919.22(E)(5)(d).
  - (e)
    - (1) If a person violates subsection (c) hereof and if, at the time of the violation, there were two or more children under eighteen years of age in the motor vehicle involved in the violation, the offender may be convicted of a violation of subsection (c) hereof for each of the children, but the court may sentence the offender for only one of the violations.
    - (2) A. If a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (c) hereof but the person is not also convicted of and does not also plead guilty to a separate charge charging the violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code that was the basis of the charge of the violation of subsection (c) hereof, both of the following apply:
      - 1. For purposes of the provisions of the Traffic Code penalty that set forth the penalties and sanctions for a violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code, the conviction of or plea of guilty to the violation of subsection (c) hereof shall not constitute a violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code.

2. For purposes of any provision of law that refers to a conviction of or plea of guilty to a violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code and that is not described in subsection (e)(2)A.1. hereof, the conviction of or plea of guilty to the violation of subsection (c) hereof shall constitute a conviction of or plea of guilty to a violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code.
- B. If a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (c) hereof and the person also is convicted of or pleads guilty to a separate charge charging the violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code that was the basis of the charge of the violation of subsection (c) hereof, the conviction of or plea of guilty to the violation of subsection (c) hereof shall not constitute, for purposes of any provision of law that refers to a conviction of or plea of guilty to a violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code, a conviction of or plea of guilty to a violation of Section 333.01(a) of the Traffic Code. (ORC 2919.22)

**537.08 UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT.**

(a) No person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly restrain another of the other person's liberty.

(b) No person, without privilege to do so and with a sexual motivation, shall knowingly restrain another of the other person's liberty.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of unlawful restraint, a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(d) As used in this section, "sexual motivation" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2971.01. (ORC 2905.03)

**537.09 COERCION.**

(a) No person, with purpose to coerce another into taking or refraining from action concerning which the other person has a legal freedom of choice, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Threaten to commit any offense;
- (2) Utter or threaten any calumny against any person;
- (3) Expose or threaten to expose any matter tending to subject any person to hatred, contempt or ridicule, to damage any person's personal or business repute, or to impair any person's credit;
- (4) Institute or threaten criminal proceedings against any person;
- (5) Take or withhold, or threaten to take or withhold official action, or cause or threaten to cause official action to be taken or withheld.

(b) Subsections (a)(4) and (5) hereof shall not be construed to prohibit a prosecutor or court from doing any of the following in good faith and in the interest of justice:

- (1) Offering or agreeing to grant, or granting immunity from prosecution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2945.44;
- (2) In return for a plea of guilty to one or more offenses charged or to one or more other or lesser offenses, or in return for the testimony of the accused in a case to which the accused is not a party, offering or agreeing to dismiss, or dismissing one or more charges pending against an accused, or offering or agreeing to impose, or imposing a certain sentence or modification of sentence;

- (3) Imposing community control sanction on certain conditions, including without limitation requiring the offender to make restitution or redress to the victim of the offense.

(c) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under subsection (a)(3), (4) or (5) hereof that the actor's conduct was a reasonable response to the circumstances that occasioned it, and that the actor's purpose was limited to any of the following:

- (1) Compelling another to refrain from misconduct or to desist from further misconduct;
- (2) Preventing or redressing a wrong or injustice;
- (3) Preventing another from taking action for which the actor reasonably believed the other person to be disqualified;
- (4) Compelling another to take action that the actor reasonably believed the other person to be under a duty to take.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of coercion, a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(e) As used in this section:

- (1) "Threat" includes a direct threat and a threat by innuendo.
- (2) "Community control sanction" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01. (ORC 2905.12)

#### **537.10 TELECOMMUNICATION; KNOWINGLY ENGAGING IN HARASSMENT.**

(a) No person shall knowingly make or cause to be made a telecommunication, or knowingly permit telecommunication to be made from a telecommunications device under the person's control, to another, if the caller does any of the following:

- (1) Fails to identify the caller to the recipient of the telecommunication and makes the telecommunication with purpose to harass, or abuse, any person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made, whether or not actual communication takes place between the caller and a recipient;
- (2) Describes, suggests, requests, or proposes that the caller, the recipient of the telecommunication, or any other person engage in sexual activity, and the recipient or another person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made has requested, in a previous telecommunication or in the immediate telecommunication, that the caller not make a telecommunication to the recipient or to the premises to which the telecommunication is made;
- (3) During the telecommunication, violates Ohio R.C. 2903.21;
- (4) Knowingly states to the recipient of the telecommunication that the caller intends to cause damage to or destroy public or private property, and the recipient, any member of the recipient's family, or any other person who resides at the premises to which the telecommunication is made owns, leases, resides, or works in, will at the time of the destruction or damaging be near or in, has the responsibility of protecting, or insures the property that will be destroyed or damaged;
- (5) Knowingly makes the telecommunication to the recipient of the telecommunication, to another person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made, or to those premises, and the recipient or another person at those premises previously has told the caller not to make a telecommunication to those premises or to any person at those premises.

(b) No person shall make or cause to be made a telecommunication, or permit a telecommunication to be made from a telecommunications device under the person's control, with purpose to abuse, threaten, or harass another person.

- (c) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of telecommunication harassment.  
(2) A violation of subsections (a)(1), (2), (3) or (5) or (b) hereof is a misdemeanor of the first degree on a first offense. Each subsequent offense is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(3) Whoever violates subsection (a)(4) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree for a first offense. For each subsequent offense or if a violation of subsection (a)(4) hereof results in economic harm of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, a violation of subsection (a)(4) hereof is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(Ord. 1936-15. Passed 12-10-15.)

**537.11 TELECOMMUNICATION; RECKLESSLY ENGAGING IN HARASSMENT.**

(a) No person shall recklessly make or cause to be made a telecommunication, or knowingly permit telecommunication to be made from a telecommunications device under the person's control, to another, if the caller does any of the following:

- (1) Fails to identify the caller to the recipient of the telecommunication and makes the telecommunication with purpose to harass, or abuse, any person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made, whether or not actual communication takes place between the caller and a recipient;  
(2) Describes, suggests, requests, or proposes that the caller, the recipient of the telecommunication, or any other person engage in sexual activity, and the recipient or another person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made has requested, in a previous telecommunication or in the immediate telecommunication, that the caller not make a telecommunication to the recipient or to the premises to which the telecommunication is made;  
(3) During the telecommunication, violates Ohio R.C. 2903.21;  
(4) Recklessly states to the recipient of the telecommunication that the caller intends to cause damage to or destroy public or private property, and the recipient, any member of the recipient's family, or any other person who resides at the premises to which the telecommunication is made owns, leases, resides, or works in, will at the time of the destruction or damaging be near or in, has the responsibility of protecting, or insures the property that will be destroyed or damaged;  
(5) Recklessly makes the telecommunication to the recipient of the telecommunication, to another person at the premises to which the telecommunication is made, or to those premises, and the recipient or another person at those premises previously has told the caller not to make a telecommunication to those premises or to any person at those premises.

(b) No person shall make or cause to be made a telecommunication, or permit a telecommunication to be made from a telecommunications device under the person's control, with purpose to abuse, threaten, or harass another person.

- (c) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of telecommunication harassment.  
(2) A violation of subsections (a)(1), (2), (3) or (5) or (b) hereof is a misdemeanor of the first degree on a first offense. Each subsequent offense is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

- (3) Whoever violates subsection (a)(4) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree for a first offense. For each subsequent offense or if a violation of subsection (a)(4) hereof results in economic harm of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, a violation of subsection (a)(4) hereof is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(Ord. 1936-15. Passed 12-10-15.)

#### **537.12 MISUSE OF 9-1-1 SYSTEM.**

(a) "9-1-1 system" means a system through which individuals can request emergency service using the telephone number 9-1-1. (ORC 128.01)

(b) No person shall knowingly use the telephone number of the 9-1-1 system established under Ohio R.C. Chapter 128 to report an emergency if he knows that no emergency exists.

(c) No person shall knowingly use a 9-1-1 system for a purpose other than obtaining emergency service.

(d) No person shall disclose or use any information concerning telephone numbers, addresses, or names obtained from the data base that serves the public safety answering point of a 9-1-1 system established under Ohio R.C. Chapter 128, except for any of the following purposes or under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) For the purpose of the 9-1-1 system;
- (2) For the purpose of responding to an emergency call to an emergency service provider;
- (3) In the circumstance of the inadvertent disclosure of such information due solely to technology of the wireline telephone network portion of the 9-1-1 system not allowing access to the data base to be restricted to 9-1-1 specific answering lines at a public safety answering point;
- (4) In the circumstance of access to a data base being given by a telephone company that is a wireline service provider to a public utility or municipal utility in handling customer calls in times of public emergency or service outages. The charge, terms, and conditions for the disclosure or use of such information for the purpose of such access to a data base shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the steering committee.
- (5) In the circumstance of access to a data base given by a telephone company that is a wireline service provider to a state and local government in warning of a public emergency, as determined by the steering committee. The charge, terms, and conditions for the disclosure or use of that information for the purpose of access to a data base is subject to the jurisdiction of the steering committee.  
(ORC 128.32)

- (e) (1) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (c) or (d) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on a first offense. For each subsequent offense such person is guilty of a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 128.99)

#### **537.13 ADULTERATING OF OR FURNISHING ADULTERATED FOOD OR CONFECTION.**

(a) No person shall do either of the following, knowingly or having reasonable cause to believe that any person may suffer physical harm or be seriously inconvenienced or annoyed thereby:

- (1) Place a pin, needle, razor blade, glass, laxative, drug of abuse, or other harmful or hazardous object or substance in any food or confection;
- (2) Furnish to any person any food or confection which has been adulterated in violation of subsection (a)(1) hereof. (ORC 3716.11)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 3716.99(C))

**537.14 (RESERVED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.)**

**537.15 (RESERVED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.)**

**537.16 ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF CIGARETTES, OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS, OR ALTERNATE NICOTINE PRODUCTS.**

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) “Age verification” means a service provided by an independent third party (other than a manufacturer, producer, distributor, wholesaler, or retailer of cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes) that compares information available from a commercially available database, or aggregate of databases, that regularly are used by government and businesses for the purpose of age and identity verification to personal information provided during an internet sale or other remote method of sale to establish that the purchaser is eighteen years of age or older.
- (2) A. “Alternative nicotine product” means, subject to subsection (a)(2)B. of this section, an electronic cigarette or any other product or device that consists of or contains nicotine that can be ingested into the body by any means, including, but not limited to, chewing, smoking, absorbing, dissolving or inhaling.  
B. “Alternative nicotine product” does not include any of the following:
  1. Any cigarette or other tobacco product;
  2. Any product that is a “drug” as that term is defined in 21 U.S.C. 321(g)(1);
  3. Any product that is a “device” as that term is defined in 21 U.S.C. 321(h);
  4. Any product that is a “combination product” as described in 21 U.S.C. 353(g).
- (3) “Child” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2151.011.
- (4) “Cigarette” includes clove cigarettes and hand-rolled cigarettes.
- (5) “Distribute” means to furnish, give, or provide cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes to the ultimate consumer of the cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes.
- (6) A. “Electronic cigarette” means, subject to subsection (a)(6)B. of this section, any electronic product or device that produces a vapor that delivers nicotine or any other substance to the person inhaling from the device to simulate smoking and that is likely to be offered to or purchased by consumers as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo or electronic pipe.  
B. “Electronic cigarette” does not include any item, product or device described in subsections (a)(2)B.1. to 4. of this section.



- (7) “Proof of age” means a driver’s license, a commercial driver’s license, a military identification card, a passport, or an identification card issued under Ohio R.C. 4507.50 to 4507.52 that shows that a person is eighteen years of age or older.
- (8) “Tobacco product” means any product that is made from tobacco, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, a cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco or snuff.
- (9) “Vending machine” has the same meaning as “coin machine” in Ohio R.C. 2913.01.

(b) No manufacturer, producer, distributor, wholesaler, or retailer of cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes, no agent, employee, or representative of a manufacturer, producer, distributor, wholesaler, or retailer of cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes, and no other person shall do any of the following:

- (1) Give, sell or otherwise distribute cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes to any child;
- (2) Give away, sell or distribute cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes in any place that does not have posted in a conspicuous place a sign stating that giving, selling or otherwise distributing cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes to a person under eighteen years of age is prohibited by law;
- (3) Knowingly furnish any false information regarding the name, age or other identification of any child with purpose to obtain cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes for that child;
- (4) Manufacture, sell or distribute in this state any pack or other container of cigarettes containing fewer than twenty cigarettes or any package of roll-your-own tobacco containing less than six-tenths of one ounce of tobacco;
- (5) Sell cigarettes or alternative nicotine products in a smaller quantity than that placed in the pack or other container by the manufacturer;
- (6) Give, sell or otherwise distribute alternative nicotine products, papers used to roll cigarettes, or tobacco products other than cigarettes over the internet or through another remote method without age verification.

(c) No person shall sell or offer to sell cigarettes, other tobacco products or alternative nicotine products by or from a vending machine, except in the following locations:

- (1) An area within a factory, business, office, or other place not open to the general public;
- (2) An area to which children are not generally permitted access;
- (3) Any other place not identified in subsection (c)(1) or (2) of this section, upon all of the following conditions:
  - A. The vending machine is located within the immediate vicinity, plain view, and control of the person who owns or operates the place, or an employee of that person, so that all cigarettes, other tobacco product and alternative nicotine product purchases from the vending machine will be readily observed by the person who owns or operates the place or an employee of that person. For the purpose of this section, a vending machine located in any unmonitored area, including an unmonitored coatroom, restroom, hallway or outer-waiting area, shall not be considered located within the immediate vicinity, plain view, and control of the person who owns or operates the place, or an employee of that person.

- B. The vending machine is inaccessible to the public when the place is closed.
- (d) The following are affirmative defenses to a charge under subsection (b)(1) of this section:
- (1) The child was accompanied by a parent, spouse who is eighteen years of age or older, or legal guardian of the child.
  - (2) The person who gave, sold or distributed cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes to a child under subsection (b)(1) of this section is a parent, spouse who is eighteen years of age or older, or legal guardian of the child.
- (e) It is not a violation of subsection (b)(1) or (2) of this section for a person to give or otherwise distribute to a child cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products or papers used to roll cigarettes while the child is participating in a research protocol if all of the following apply:
- (1) The parent, guardian or legal custodian of the child has consented in writing to the child participating in the research protocol;
  - (2) An institutional human subjects protection review board, or an equivalent entity, has approved the research protocol;
  - (3) The child is participating in the research protocol at the facility or location specified in the research protocol.
- (f) (1) Whoever violates subsection (b)(1), (2), (4), (5) or (6) or (c) of this section is guilty of illegal distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, illegal distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (b)(1), (2), (4), (5) or (6) or (c) of this section, illegal distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products is a misdemeanor of the third degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (b)(3) of this section is guilty of permitting children to use cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, permitting children to use cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of subsection (b)(3) of this section, permitting children to use cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products is a misdemeanor of the third degree.
- (g) Any cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes that are given, sold or otherwise distributed to a child in violation of this section and that are used, possessed, purchased or received by a child in violation of Ohio R.C. 2151.87 are subject to seizure and forfeiture as contraband under Ohio R.C. Chapter 2981. (ORC 2927.02)

### **537.17 CRIMINAL CHILD ENTICEMENT.**

- (a) No person, by any means and without privilege to do so, shall knowingly solicit, coax, entice or lure any child under fourteen years of age to accompany the person in any manner, including entering into any vehicle, or onto any vessel, whether or not the offender knows the age of the child, if both of the following apply:

- (1) The actor does not have the express or implied permission of the parent, guardian or other legal custodian of the child in undertaking the activity;
  - (2) The actor is not a law enforcement officer, medic, firefighter, or other person who regularly provides emergency services, and is not an employee or agent of, or a volunteer acting under the direction of any Board of Education, or the actor is any of such persons, but, at the time the actor undertakes the activity, the actor is not acting within the scope of the actor's lawful duties in that capacity.
- (b) No person, with a sexual motivation, shall violate subsection (a) of this section.
- (c) No person, for any unlawful purpose other than, or in addition to, that proscribed by subsection (a) of this section, shall engage in any activity described in subsection (a) of this section.
- (d) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under subsection (a) hereof that the actor undertook the activity in response to a bona fide emergency situation or that the actor undertook the activity in a reasonable belief that it was necessary to preserve the health, safety or welfare of the child.
- (e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of criminal child enticement, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender has previously been convicted of a violation of this section or Ohio R.C. 2905.05, 2907.02, or 2907.03, or former Section 2907.12, or Ohio R.C. 2905.01 or 2907.05 when the victim of that prior offense was under seventeen years of age at the time of the offense, criminal child enticement is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
- (f) As used in this section:
- (1) "Sexual motivation" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2971.01.
  - (2) "Vehicle" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4501.01.
  - (3) "Vessel" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 1546.01.  
(ORC 2905.05)

### **537.18 CONTRIBUTING TO UNRULINESS OR DELINQUENCY OF A CHILD.**

- (a) As used in this section:
- (1) "Delinquent child" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2152.02.
  - (2) "Unruly child" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2151.022.
- (b) No person, including a parent, guardian or other custodian of a child, shall do any of the following:
- (1) Aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage, or contribute to a child or a ward of the juvenile court becoming an unruly child or a delinquent child;
  - (2) Act in a way tending to cause a child or a ward of the juvenile court to become an unruly child or a delinquent child;
  - (3) Act in a way that contributes to an adjudication of the child as a delinquent child based on the child's violation of a court order adjudicating the child an unruly child for being an habitual truant;
  - (4) If the person is the parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who has the duties under Ohio R.C. Chapters 2152 and 2950 to register, register a new residence address, and periodically verify a residence address and, if applicable, to send a notice of intent to reside, and if the child is not emancipated, as defined in Ohio R.C. 2919.121, fail to ensure that the child complies with those duties under Ohio R.C. Chapters 2152 and 2950.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child, a misdemeanor of the first degree. Each day of violation of this section is a separate offense. (ORC 2919.24)

**537.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

**CHAPTER 541**  
**Property Offenses**

<p><b>541.01</b> Determining property value in arson.</p> <p><b>541.02</b> Arson.</p> <p><b>541.03</b> Criminal damaging or endangering.</p> <p><b>541.04</b> Criminal mischief.</p> <p><b>541.05</b> Criminal trespass.</p> <p><b>541.051</b> Aggravated trespass.</p> <p><b>541.06</b> Destruction of shrubs, trees or crops.</p>	<p><b>541.07</b> Desecration.</p> <p><b>541.08</b> Ethnic intimidation.</p> <p><b>541.09</b> Posting bills and hanging signs.</p> <p><b>541.10</b> Tampering with hydrant, pipe or meter.</p> <p><b>541.11</b> Possession and removal of City property.</p> <p><b>541.12</b> Vehicular vandalism.</p> <p><b>541.13</b> Trespass on a place of public amusement.</p> <p><b>541.99</b> Penalty.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Parents' liability for destructive acts of their children - see Ohio R.C. 3109.09  
 Physical harm to property defined - see GEN. OFF. 501.01(d), (f)  
 Reimbursement for investigation or prosecution costs - see GEN. OFF. 501.99(a)  
 Damage to sidewalks - see GEN. OFF. 521.04  
 Vehicle trespass - see GEN. OFF. 545.06

**541.01 DETERMINING PROPERTY VALUE IN ARSON.**

(a) The following criteria shall be used in determining the value of property or amount of physical harm involved in a violation of Section 541.02.

- (1) If the property is an heirloom, memento, collector's item, antique, museum piece, manuscript, document, record or other thing that is either irreplaceable or is replaceable only on the expenditure of substantial time, effort or money, the value of the property or the amount of physical harm involved is the amount that would compensate the owner for its loss.
- (2) If the property is not covered under subsection (a)(1) hereof, and the physical harm is such that the property can be restored substantially to its former condition, the amount of physical harm involved is the reasonable cost of restoring the property.
- (3) If the property is not covered under subsection (a)(1) hereof, and the physical harm is such that the property cannot be restored substantially to its former condition, the value of the property, in the case of personal property, is the cost of replacing the property with new property of like kind and quality, and in the case of real property or real property fixtures, is the difference in the fair market value of the property immediately before and immediately after the offense.

(b) As used in this section, "fair market value" has the same meaning as in Section 545.02(c)(3).

(c) Prima-facie evidence of the value of property, as provided in Section 545.02(d) may be used to establish the value of property pursuant to this section. (ORC 2909.11)

#### **541.02 ARSON.**

(a) No person, by means of fire or explosion, shall knowingly cause or create a substantial risk of physical harm to any property of another without the other person's consent.

- (b) (1) No person, by means of fire or explosion, shall knowingly cause or create a substantial risk of physical harm to any structure of another that is not an occupied structure;
- (2) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under subsection (b)(1) of this section that the defendant acted with the consent of the other person.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of arson, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the value of the property or the amount of physical harm involved is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, arson is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2909.03)

#### **541.03 CRIMINAL DAMAGING OR ENDANGERING.**

(a) No person shall cause, or create a substantial risk of physical harm to any property of another without the other person's consent:

- (1) Knowingly, by any means;
- (2) Recklessly, by means of fire, explosion, flood, poison gas, poison, radioactive material, caustic or corrosive material, or other inherently dangerous agency or substance.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of criminal damaging or endangering, a misdemeanor of the second degree. If violation of this section creates a risk of physical harm to any person, criminal damaging or endangering is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the property involved in a violation is an aircraft, an aircraft engine, propeller, appliance, spare part, or any other equipment or implement used or intended to be used in the operation of an aircraft and if the violation creates a risk of physical harm to any person or if the property involved in a violation is an occupied aircraft, criminal damaging or endangering is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2909.06)

#### **541.04 CRIMINAL MISCHIEF.**

(a) No person shall:

- (1) Without privilege to do so, knowingly move, deface, damage, destroy or otherwise improperly tamper with either of the following:
- A. The property of another;
- B. One's own residential real property with the purpose to decrease the value of or enjoyment of the residential real property, if both of the following apply:
1. The residential real property is subject to a mortgage.
  2. The person has been served with a summons and complaint in a pending residential mortgage loan foreclosure action relating to that real property. As used in this subsection, "pending" includes the time between judgment entry and confirmation of sale.

- (2) With purpose to interfere with the use or enjoyment of property of another employ a tear gas device, stink bomb, smoke generator or other device releasing a substance that is harmful or offensive to persons exposed, or that tends to cause public alarm;
- (3) Without privilege to do so, knowingly move, deface, damage, destroy or otherwise improperly tamper with a bench mark, triangulation station, boundary marker or other survey station, monument or marker.
- (4) Without privilege to do so, knowingly move, deface, damage, destroy or otherwise improperly tamper with any safety device, the property of another or the property of the offender when required or placed for the safety of others, so as to destroy or diminish its effectiveness or availability for its intended purpose;
- (5) With purpose to interfere with the use or enjoyment of the property of another, set a fire on the land of another or place personal property that has been set on fire on the land of another, which fire or personal property is outside and apart from any building, other structure or personal property that is on that land.
- (6) Without privilege to do so, and with intent to impair the functioning of any computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, or computer program, all as defined in Ohio R.C. 2909.01, knowingly do any of the following:
  - A. In any manner or by any means, including, but not limited to, computer hacking, alter, damage, destroy, or modify a computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, or computer program or data contained in a computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, or computer program;
  - B. Introduce a computer contaminant into a computer, computer system, computer network, computer software or computer program.

(b) As used in this section, "safety device" means any fire extinguisher, fire hose or fire axe, or any fire escape, emergency exit or emergency escape equipment, or any life line, life-saving ring, life preserver or life boat or raft, or any alarm, light, flare, signal, sign or notice intended to warn of danger, or emergency, or intended for other safety purposes, or any guard railing or safety barricade, or any traffic sign or signal, or any railroad grade crossing sign, signal or gate, or any first aid or survival equipment, or any other device, apparatus, or equipment intended for protecting or preserving the safety of persons or property.

- (c)
  - (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of criminal mischief, and shall be punished as provided in subsection (c)(2) or (3) of this section.
  - (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, criminal mischief committed in violation of subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section is a misdemeanor of the third degree. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the violation of subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section creates a risk of physical harm to any person, criminal mischief committed in violation of subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the property involved in the violation of subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section is an aircraft, an aircraft engine, propeller, appliance, spare part, fuel, lubricant, hydraulic fluid, any other equipment, implement, or material used or intended to be used in the operation of an aircraft, or any cargo carried or

- intended to be carried in an aircraft, criminal mischief committed in violation of subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, criminal mischief committed in violation of subsection (a)(6) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the value of the computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, computer program or data involved in the violation of subsection (a)(6) of this section or the loss to the victim resulting from the violation is one thousand dollars or more, or if the computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, computer program or data involved in the violation of subsection (a)(6) of this section is used or intended to be used in the operation of an aircraft and the violation creates a risk of physical harm to any person, criminal mischief committed in violation of subsection (a)(6) of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2909.07)

#### **541.05 CRIMINAL TRESPASS.**

- (a) No person, without privilege to do so, shall do any of the following:
- (1) Knowingly enter or remain on the land or premises of another;
  - (2) Knowingly enter or remain on the land or premises of another, the use of which is lawfully restricted to certain persons, purposes, modes or hours, when the offender knows the offender is in violation of any such restriction or is reckless in that regard;
  - (3) Recklessly enter or remain on the land or premises of another, as to which notice against unauthorized access or presence is given by actual communication to the offender, or in a manner prescribed by law, or by posting in a manner reasonably calculated to come to the attention of potential intruders, or by fencing or other enclosure manifestly designed to restrict access;
  - (4) Being on the land or premises of another, negligently fail or refuse to leave upon being notified by signage posted in a conspicuous place or otherwise being notified to do so by the owner or occupant, or the agent or servant of either.
- (b) It is no defense to a charge under this section that the land or premises involved was owned, controlled or in custody of a public agency.
- (c) It is no defense to a charge under this section that the offender was authorized to enter or remain on the land or premises involved when such authorization was secured by deception.
- (d)
- (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of criminal trespass, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
  - (2) Notwithstanding Section 501.99, if the person, in committing the violation of this section, used a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle, the court shall impose a fine of two times the usual amount imposed for the violation.
  - (3) If an offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of this section or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, or state law, and the offender, in committing each violation, used a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle, the court, in addition to or independent of all other penalties imposed for the violation, may impound the certificate of registration of that snowmobile or off-highway motorcycle or the certificate of registration and license plate of that all-purpose vehicle for not less than sixty days. In such a case, Ohio R.C. 4519.47 applies.



- (e) As used in this section:
- (1) "All-purpose vehicle," "off-highway motorcycle" and "snowmobile" have the same meaning as in Section 375.01 of the Traffic Code.
  - (2) "Land or premises" includes any land, building, structure, or place belonging to, controlled by, or in custody of another, and any separate enclosure or room, or portion thereof. (ORC 2911.21)

**541.051 AGGRAVATED TRESPASS.**

(a) No person shall enter or remain on the land or premises of another with purpose to commit on that land or those premises a misdemeanor, the elements of which involve causing physical harm to another person or causing another person to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to him.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of aggravated trespass, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2911.211)

**541.06 DESTRUCTION OF SHRUBS, TREES OR CROPS.**

(a) No person, without privilege to do so, shall recklessly cut down, destroy, girdle or otherwise injure a vine, bush, shrub, sapling, tree or crop standing or growing on the land of another or upon public land.

(b) In addition to any penalty provided, whoever violates this section is liable in treble damages for the injury caused. (ORC 901.51)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 901.99(A))

**541.07 DESECRATION.**

(a) No person, without privilege to do so, shall purposely deface, damage, pollute or otherwise physically mistreat any of the following:

- (1) The flag of the United States or of this State;
- (2) Any public monument;
- (3) Any historical or commemorative marker, or any structure, Indian mound or earthwork, cemetery, thing or site of great historical or archeological interest;
- (4) A work of art or museum piece;
- (5) Any other object of reverence or sacred devotion.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of desecration, a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(c) As used in this section, "cemetery" means any place of burial and includes burial sites that contain American Indian burial objects placed with or containing American Indian human remains. (ORC 2927.11)

**541.08 ETHNIC INTIMIDATION.**

(a) No person shall violate Ohio R.C. 2903.21, 2903.22, 2909.06, 2909.07 or 2917.21(A)(3) to (5) or Sections 537.05, 537.06, 537.10(a)(3) to (5), 541.03 or 541.04 of the General Offenses Code by reason of the race, color, religion or national origin of another person or group of persons.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of ethnic intimidation. Ethnic intimidation is an offense of the next higher degree than the offense the commission of which is a necessary element of ethnic intimidation.  
(ORC 2927.12)

**541.09 POSTING BILLS AND HANGING SIGNS.**

(a) No person shall paint, print, paste, stencil or otherwise mark, place upon or affix to a vehicle, building, fence, wall or tree, without the consent of the owner thereof, a word, letter, character, figure, sentence or device, or a handbill or notice.

(b) No person shall tack, paste or in any other manner place or affix any sign or signboard on any telephone, telegraph or electric light pole, tree or public building or any other public property, except with permission of the City Manager.

(c) This section does not apply to the posting of a handbill or notice required by law to be posted.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**541.10 TAMPERING WITH HYDRANT, PIPE OR METER.**

(a) No person shall maliciously open, close, adjust or interfere with a fire hydrant, valve, regulator, gauge, gate, disc, curbcock, stopcock, meter or other regulator, operating or measuring device or appliance in or attached to the wells, tanks, reservoirs, conduits, pipes, mains, service pipes, house pipes or other pipes or apparatus of a water company or furnisher of water, with intent to cause the escape of water or to injure or destroy such property. No person shall tap, sever, open or make unauthorized connections with a main or pipe used or intended for the transmission of water. This section does not apply to the agent or employee for that purpose, of the owner or operator of the appliances referred to in this section, and does not apply to anything done by or under authority of the Fire Department. (ORC 4933.22)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**541.11 POSSESSION AND REMOVAL OF CITY PROPERTY.**

(a) No person shall, without being authorized, have in his control or possession any equipment, tools, implements or other property belonging to the City.

(b) No person shall maliciously tamper with, injure, destroy, steal or remove any lamp, lantern, post, pole, cable, electric line, tool, hose, pipe, conduit, road material, earth, stone or any other property or material owned or under the supervision or control of the City or any department thereof.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**541.12 VEHICULAR VANDALISM.**

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Highway" means any highway as defined in Section 301.42 of the Traffic Code or any lane, road, street, alley, bridge, or overpass.
- (2) "Alley", "street", and "vehicle" have the same meanings as in Chapter 301 of the Traffic Code.
- (3) "Vessel" and "waters in this State" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 1546.01.

(b) No person shall knowingly, and by any means, drop or throw any object at, onto, or in the path of any of the following:

- (1) Any vehicle on a highway;
- (2) Any boat or vessel on any of the waters in this State that are located in the Municipality.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of vehicular vandalism. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, vehicular vandalism is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the violation of this section creates a substantial risk of physical harm to any person, serious physical harm to property, physical harm to any person or serious physical harm to any person, vehicular vandalism is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(ORC 2909.09)

#### **541.13 TRESPASS ON A PLACE OF PUBLIC AMUSEMENT.**

(a) As used in this section, “place of public amusement” means a stadium, theater or other facility, whether licensed or not, at which a live performance, sporting event, or other activity takes place for entertainment of the public and to which access is made available to the public, regardless of whether admission is charged.

(b) No person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly enter or remain on any restricted portion of a place of public amusement and, as a result of that conduct, interrupt or cause the delay of the live performance, sporting event, or other activity taking place at the place of public amusement after a printed written notice has been given as provided in subsection (d)(1) of this section that the general public is restricted from access to that restricted portion of the place of public amusement. A restricted portion of a place of public amusement may include, but is not limited to, a playing field, an athletic surface, or a stage located at the place of public amusement.

(c) An owner or lessee of a place of public amusement, an agent of the owner or lessee, or a performer or participant at a place of public amusement may use reasonable force to restrain and remove a person from a restricted portion of the place of public amusement if the person enters or remains on the restricted portion of the place of public amusement and, as a result of that conduct, interrupts or causes the delay of the live performance, sporting event, or other activity taking place at the place of public amusement. This subsection does not provide immunity from criminal liability for any use of force beyond reasonable force by an owner or lessee of a place of public amusement, an agent of either the owner or lessee, or a performer or participant at a place of public amusement.

- (d) (1) Notice has been given that the general public is restricted from access to a portion of a place of public amusement if a printed written notice of the restricted access has been conspicuously posted or exhibited at the entrance to that portion of the place of public amusement. If a printed written notice is posted or exhibited as described in this subsection, regarding a portion of a place of public amusement, in addition to that posting or exhibition, notice that the general public is restricted from access to that portion of the place of public amusement also may be given, but is not required to be given, by either of the following means:
- A. By notifying the person personally, either orally or in writing, that access to that portion of the place of public amusement is restricted;
  - B. By broadcasting over the public address system of the place of public amusement an oral warning that access to that portion of the public place of amusement is restricted.

- (2) If notice that the general public is restricted from access to a portion of a place of public amusement is provided by the posting or exhibition of a printed written notice as described in subsection (d)(1) of this section, the Municipality, in a criminal prosecution for a violation of subsection (b) of this section, is not required to prove that the defendant received actual notice that the general public is restricted from access to a portion of a place of public amusement.
- (e) (1) Whoever violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of criminal trespass on a place of public amusement, a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (2) In addition to any jail term, fine or other sentence, penalty, or sanction it imposes upon the offender pursuant to subsection (e)(1) of this section, a court may require an offender who violates this section to perform not less than thirty and not more than one hundred twenty hours of supervised community service work. (ORC 2911.23)

**541.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

**CHAPTER 542**  
**False Police Alarms**

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| <p><b>542.01 Purpose and scope.</b></p> <p><b>542.02 Definitions.</b></p> <p><b>542.03 Alarm business license required.</b></p> <p><b>542.04 Application for license; expiration.</b></p> <p><b>542.05 Contents of license application.</b></p> <p><b>542.06 Renewal of alarm business license.</b></p> <p><b>542.07 License not transferable.</b></p> <p><b>542.08 Suspension and revocation of license.</b></p> <p><b>542.09 Appeal procedure.</b></p> <p><b>542.10 Alarm user's (subscriber's) permit.</b></p> <p><b>542.11 Excessive false alarms.</b></p> <p><b>542.12 Specific alarm provisions (entrance/exit).</b></p> | <p><b>542.13 Application of standards to existing and future alarm systems.</b></p> <p><b>542.14 Limitation of liability.</b></p> <p><b>542.15 Surrender of license.</b></p> <p><b>542.16 Exception.</b></p> <p><b>542.17 Separability.</b></p> <p><b>542.18 Order to disconnect.</b></p> <p><b>542.19 Appeals from false alarm fees and disconnect orders.</b></p> <p><b>542.99 Penalty.</b></p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

Making false alarms - see GEN. OFF. 509.07

**542.01 PURPOSE AND SCOPE.**

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to protect the emergency services of the Police Department of the City of Moraine from misuse, by responding to defective alarm systems and excessive false alarms.

(b) This chapter governs and regulates alarm systems, alarm users and alarm businesses. It provides for the licensing of alarm businesses, establishes fees, provides for suspension and revocation of licenses and provides for penalties for violations and penalties for excessive false alarms.

(c) This chapter shall not have any application to fire alarm systems.  
(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

#### **542.02 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter, certain words and terms are defined as follows:

- (a) "Alarm business" means the business by any individual, partnership, corporation or other entity of maintaining, servicing, repairing, or installing any alarm system in or on any building, structure or facility.
- (b) "Alarm system" means any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical arranged to signal the occurrence of an unauthorized entry or robbery. "Alarm system" does not include equipment to which the Fire Department is expected to respond nor any equipment signaling a medical emergency or vehicle alarm.
- (c) "Alarm user" means the person or entity of any kind who or which is:
  - (1) An owner (or lessee) and also the user of an alarm system, as the occupant of the premises where the system is installed (the "premises");
  - (2) The owner (or lessee) of such a premises which is occupied by another person or entity, if there is no written contract stating that the occupant (rather than the owner or lessee of the premises) is to be responsible for the alarm system;
  - (3) The occupant of such a premises, if there is a written agreement stating that the occupant is responsible for the alarm system.
- (d) "Automatic dialing device" means a device which is interconnected to a telephone line and is programmed to select a predetermined telephone number and transmit by a voice message or code signal an emergency message indicating the need for an emergency response.
- (e) "False alarm" means the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation or the negligence of the owner or lessee of an alarm system or of his employees or agent. Such false alarms do not include any force majeure.
- (f) "Interconnect" means to connect an alarm system including an automatic dialing device to a telephone line, either directly or through a mechanical device that utilizes the telephone, for the purpose of using the telephone line to transmit a message upon the activation of the alarm system.
- (g) "Permit year" means a twelve (12) month period beginning with the first day of February and ending on the last day of January of each year.
- (h) "Local alarm" means those alarms which activate an audible signal within the proximity of the premises only.
- (i) "Emergency alarm button" means an automatic alarm system signaling an unauthorized entry or robbery.
- (j) "Police Alarm Administrator" means the employee of the Police Department designated by the Chief of Police, whose responsibility is to coordinate the administration and documentation of the alarm business and alarm systems performance as it relates to the effective enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.
- (k) "Police Chief" means not only the Chief but also his designee.  
(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.03 ALARM BUSINESS LICENSE REQUIRED.**

No person shall engage in the alarm business within the City whether personally, by agents, or employees, singularly, or along with some other business or enterprise, without having first obtained a license to do so in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.04 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE; EXPIRATION.**

An application for an alarm business license shall be made on an application form obtainable from the Police Department. The license shall expire annually on January 31. (Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.05 CONTENTS OF LICENSE APPLICATION.**

- (a) An alarm business application shall contain the following information:
- (1) The name, residence address and telephone number, date of birth, sex, and Social Security number of each individual, owner, partner, or if a corporation, each officer thereof, and the name, residence address and telephone number of the manager or person to be responsible for the operation of the business if different from such individual owner, partner or officers. Application will have an attached list of names, addresses, telephone numbers and social security numbers of every employee of the business who will engage in the installing, repairing, servicing, selling, leasing or maintaining an alarm system.
  - (2) A description of the alarm systems and/or devices offered for sale or lease to the public and description of any services relating to alarm devices offered to the public. Each alarm system shall comply with applicable building codes, fire codes and current City ordinances for electrical wiring and alarm installation.
  - (3) Trade names used during the previous five (5) years by the applicant or such person signing the application along with the location of other business establishments operated in the State currently or during the previous five (5) years.
  - (4) A list of all felony and misdemeanor convictions or individual proprietors, partners or directors, principal officers and employees of the applicant business. The date and location of each conviction shall also be included.
  - (5) A statement as to whether the applicant has ever been denied a license or permit in any jurisdiction to engage in the alarm business or has had such license or permit revoked and the reason for revocation.
  - (6) A statement as to the length of time the applicant has been engaged in the alarm business and where engaged.
  - (7) The trade name, business address and telephone number on behalf of which the application is made.
  - (8) A statement that the applicant agrees to update the above information by written notice within ten (10) days after substantial change in information required by this section.
- (b) The license applications shall be accompanied by a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).

(c) Alarm businesses already engaged in providing services and/or alarm system equipment in the City on the effective date of this section shall submit an application for a license no later than sixty (60) days after the effective date. Such applicant may continue to do business while their license application is being processed. An applicant not previously engaged in providing services as an alarm business in the City on the effective date of this section shall not commence doing business until his application is approved.

(d) The Chief of Police shall review each applicant for a license and may conduct an investigation to determine whether the facts set forth in the application are true. He shall, within fifteen (15) days after receipt of an application for such license, either approve or deny issuance of same and, accordingly, forward written notification to the applicant of such decision. A written notification of denial shall include the basis for such finding and if the grounds for denial are subject to correction, applicant shall be given ten (10) days after receipt of such notice within which to make the required correction. The notice of denial shall inform the applicant that he may appeal the denial.

(e) The Chief of Police shall deny the application for an alarm business license if he finds that the applicant or the individual having the authority and the responsibility for the management and operation of the applicant's alarm business within the City or any of the applicants, owners, partners or principal corporate officers have:

- (1) Committed any act which, if committed by a licensee, would be grounds for revocation of a license under Section 542.08; or
- (2) While unlicensed, knowingly and willfully committed or aided and abetted in the commission of any act for which a license is required by this chapter; or
- (3) Been convicted in any jurisdiction of a felony or misdemeanor if the Chief of Police finds that such conviction reflects unfavorably on the fitness of the applicant to engage in alarm business.

(f) The applicant will be notified in writing of the approval or disapproval of the application.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

#### **542.06 RENEWAL OF ALARM BUSINESS LICENSE.**

(a) License for alarm businesses shall not be renewed by the Chief of Police in the manner hereinafter set forth if the licensee or any of the owners, partners, principal corporate officers or the individual having the authority and the responsibility for the management and operation of the alarm business within this City are:

- (1) Found to have violated any of the provisions of this chapter, any rule or regulation as set forth by the Chief of Police which violation the Chief determines to reflect unfavorably upon the fitness of the licensee to engage in the alarm business;
- (2) Found to have knowingly and willfully given any false information or information of a material nature in connection with an application for a license or a renewal or reinstatement of a license;



- (3) Found to have been convicted in any jurisdiction of a felony or a misdemeanor if the Chief of Police determines that such conviction reflects unfavorably on the fitness of the applicant to engage in the alarm business; or
- (4) Found to have committed any act while the license was not in effect which would be cause for revocation of a license. This would be grounds for the denial of an application for a license.

(b) Application for renewal of an alarm business license shall be due on February 1 of each year and shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee as provided in Section 542.05. (Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.07 LICENSE NOT TRANSFERABLE.**

(a) No license issued under provisions of this chapter shall be transferred.

(b) No license shall be used by any person other than the one to whom it was issued. (Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.08 SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF LICENSE.**

(a) An alarm business license may be suspended or revoked by the Chief of Police for any of the following causes:

- (1) That the license was knowingly obtained through any fraud or misstatement;
- (2) The business transactions of the alarm business have been marked by a practice of failure to perform contracts;
- (3) Licensee fails to comply with any provision of this chapter which the Chief of Police deems contrary to the intent and purpose of this chapter; or
- (4) Conviction of any felony or any misdemeanor reflecting on the suitability for a license.

(b) The suspension or revocation shall not take place until the Chief of Police has notified the licensee in writing of the cause or causes for such revocation or suspension which notice shall:

- (1) Contain a brief statement of the facts relating to the revocation or suspension.
- (2) Advise the licensee of the procedure for appeal.
- (3) By serving it upon the licensee in person or by leaving it at his address as stated in the application for a license or at the business address on file with the Chief of Police or by regular U.S. mail addressed to the licensee at such address.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.09 APPEAL PROCEDURE.**

(a) Any person aggrieved by the denial of application or renewal or by notice of suspension or revocation as provided in this chapter, may appeal and shall be granted a hearing on the matter by submitting a written request to the City Manager within fifteen (15) days after the service of the denial, suspension or revocation notice:

- (1) If a hearing is requested, written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be serviced on the user by regular U.S. mail at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the hearing.
- (2) The hearing shall be before the City Manager or his designee.
  - A. The Chief of Police or his designee and the applicant shall have the right to present written and oral evidence.
  - B. The failure of the applicant or his representatives to appear and state his case at such hearing shall have the same effect as if no appeal was filed.

(b) The proceedings at such hearings, including the findings and decisions of the City Manager or his designee, and the reasons for the decision shall be summarized and reduced to writing and entered as a matter of public record in the Police Department. The record shall also include a copy of every notice or connection with the matter.

- (1) After the hearing, the City Manager or his designee may sustain, modify or reverse the decision appealed in writing.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

#### **542.10 ALARM USER'S (SUBSCRIBER'S) PERMIT.**

Within ninety (90) days after the effective date of this section, every alarm user shall obtain an alarm user permit for each alarm system within this City from the Chief of Police.

- (a) An alarm user's permit application shall contain: names and addresses of the alarm users and of the residence or business or businesses in or upon which the alarm system has been or will be installed, and telephone number. The type of alarm system (local, direct connect, central station), the alarm business company name, address and telephone, installing, monitoring, inspecting, responding to or maintaining the alarm system. The names, addresses, telephone numbers of three (3) persons who can be contacted twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, to turn off or deactivate the alarm system when the alarm user cannot be contacted. It shall be the responsibility and obligation of the alarm user to keep the above information current and accurate by notifying the Police Department in writing within ten (10) days after a change occurs.
- (b) Each alarm user shall pay to the City, upon application for permit, an alarm user fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). This permit shall expire annually on December 31 after issuance and shall not be prorated. All permits shall be renewed annually in accordance with procedures established by the Police Department. Fees are to be paid to the Finance Director and shall be due and payable on February 1 of each year. Failure to re-register will be cause for a disconnect order.  
(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

#### **542.11 EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS.**

If any alarm system produces three (3) false alarms in any twelve (12) consecutive month period, written notice of that fact shall be given by regular mail or delivery to the subscriber.

- (a) If more than three (3) false alarms are produced by any alarm system in a twelve (12) month period, an administrative fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be assessed against the alarm user for the fourth false alarm, and an administrative fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be assessed for each successive false alarm thereafter. These fees shall be in addition to any criminal penalties imposed under Section 542.99. Such charges shall continue for each successive false alarm until six (6) consecutive months have elapsed during which time no false alarms have been recorded. At that time the record will be cleared and the next false alarm shall be deemed to be the first such incident. The question of whether a false alarm has occurred may be appealed by the alarm user under the applicable procedures set forth later in Section 542.19 by an alarm user who has been assessed a false alarm administrative fee.
- (b) The permit issued to an alarm user may be revoked with the result that the alarm user be required to disconnect the alarm system in such fashion that signals are not emitted so as to notify the Police Department either directly or indirectly. The procedure for such orders to disconnect is set forth in Section 542.18.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, a false alarm shall not be deemed to have occurred:
  - (1) If caused by some factor not within the control of the alarm user, (e.g. equipment malfunction, phone line disruption, extremely severe weather, etc), and
  - (2) If that cause is verified within forty-five (45) days of the false alarm by a letter from the applicable alarm business, which letter identifies the problem, declares that it has been resolved, and describes the corrective measures that were taken.
- (d) An alarm system may be reconnected only if satisfactory evidence is provided to the Chief of Police that the alarm system has been repaired so that it does not emit further false alarms and upon payment of all delinquent charges assessed for false alarms.  
(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.12 SPECIFIC ALARM PROVISIONS (ENTRANCE/EXIT).**

- (a) All alarm installations incorporating an entrance/exit device must permit a delay of twenty (20) seconds minimum before actual activation of the system.
- (b) Automatic Dialing or Calling Devices. Alarm systems that automatically dial or call the Police Department must be called on a special telephone line designated by the Police/Fire Department and shall comply with the following:
  - (1) Total length of the recorded message being transmitted to the Police Department (including repetition of message) shall not exceed forty-five (45) seconds duration.
  - (2) The recorded message transmitted shall be repeated not less than three (3) nor more than four (4) times and shall have an automatic abort feature to ensure this requirement.

- (3) The recorded message being transmitted shall incorporate language specifically identifying the message as a “recording” with the balance of the message, identifying by street number and street name, the location of the emergency and the nature of the event which caused the alarm system to activate. If the location of the event signaled by the alarm system is in a multi-family building, the message shall also identify, by number and by floor, this particular dwelling unit, office unit, or commercial unit in which the event occurred.
- (4) The recorded message being transmitted to the Police Department shall be appropriate for the purpose for which the alarm system was installed, and the message in its entirety shall be intelligible and spoken in the English language.

(c) Local Alarm. The local alarm shall not resemble the sound of any emergency signal or civil defense alarm or siren. All local alarms shall have the capacity to reset themselves within fifteen (15) minutes from the time it was activated.

(d) Instructions. Every alarm business selling, leasing, or furnishing to any user an alarm system which is installed on premises located within the City, shall furnish the user with instructions that provide information to enable the user to operate the alarm system properly and to obtain service for the alarm system at any time.

(e) Emergency Alarm Buttons. Emergency alarm buttons are to be used only to send an automatic alarm to signal an unauthorized entry or a robbery to the Police Department.

- (1) The activation of a panic alarm is intended to signal the Police and Fire Departments of the City of an emergency situation.
- (2) Therefore, through the use of a device of this nature, the user grants to the Police Department the right to conduct any investigation deemed necessary to investigate and verify the authenticity of the alarm.
- (3) It shall be deemed a violation of this chapter if a panic device is activated for anything other than that specified in this section.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

#### **542.13 APPLICATION OF STANDARDS TO EXISTING AND FUTURE ALARM SYSTEMS.**

(a) Every new system installed after the effective date of this section shall comply with the above standards.

(b) Every alarm system existing before the effective date of this section shall be placed in compliance with the above standards no later than sixty (60) days after such effective date.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.14 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.**

The City shall not be liable for any failure or neglect to respond appropriately upon receipt of an alarm from such a device, nor for the failure or neglect of any person with a license issued pursuant to this chapter or with a franchise, in connection with the installation and operation of equipment, nor for the failure of the transmission of alarm signals and pre-recorded alarm messages, or the relaying of such signals and messages. In the event that the City finds it necessary to disconnect a defective automatic dialing system or signaling device, the City shall incur no liability by such action.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.15 SURRENDER OF LICENSE.**

If any license is revoked pursuant to this chapter, the licensee shall surrender such license to the Chief of Police.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.16 EXCEPTION.**

Any Federal installation which demonstrates to the Police Department that this City is required to allow an alarm system at such installation to be interconnected to the Police Department shall be exempt from the revocation and disconnect order sections of this chapter but shall be subject to the administrative fee assessments as described in Section 542.11 and shall also be subject to the criminal penalties for violation of this chapter as provided in Section 542.99.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.17 SEPARABILITY.**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. Council hereby declares that it would have passed this chapter, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one (1) or more of the sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases might be declared invalid.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.18 ORDER TO DISCONNECT.**

(a) In addition to the administrative fees described in Section 542.11, and in addition to any criminal penalties imposed under Section 542.99, an alarm user who has more than six (6) false alarms in a twelve (12) month period (calculated as described in Section 542.11) and who is deemed by the Community Relations Officer in the Police Department not to have made reasonable efforts toward correction of the false alarm situation, shall be issued an order to disconnect the alarm system so that signals are not emitted to notify the Police Department either directly or indirectly.

A similar order to disconnect shall be issued to any alarm user who has failed to deliver to the City full payment for any administrative fee levied under Section 542.11 (for excessive false alarms) within thirty (30) days after written notice of that fee has been mailed or otherwise delivered to the last known address of the alarm user or to the address at which the alarm system is located.

A disconnect order shall be issued to any alarm user who has failed to obtain a user's permit as required by Section 542.10.

(b) The disconnection is to be completed by the alarm user within ten (10) days after the written disconnect order is mailed or otherwise delivered to the last known address of the alarm user or to the address at which the alarm system is located.

(c) An alarm user subject to an order to disconnect has the right to appeal under the procedures set forth in Section 542.19. Any disconnect order must refer to this right to appeal. If such an appeal is filed, the disconnection is to be completed within ten (10) days after similar delivery of notice of the appellate decision, if that decision sustained the disconnect order.

(d) Once disconnected, an alarm system may be reconnected only if so ordered by the Chief of Police in a decision on an appeal or if a preponderance of the credible evidence available to the Community Relations Officer indicates:

- (1) That the alarm system has been repaired so it will not emit further false alarms; or
- (2) If the disconnect order was based on failure to pay assessments when due, that all delinquent false alarm fees have been paid in full; or
- (3) If the disconnect order has been based upon failure to register or re-register so as to obtain a permit and keep it in effect as required by Section 542.10, that registration had been completed so as to obtain an original or renewal of a user's permit.

(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

#### **542.19 APPEALS FROM FALSE ALARM FEES AND DISCONNECT ORDERS.**

(a) The following persons may appeal under this section:

- (1) An alarm user who has been assessed a false alarm administrative fee may appeal the question of whether or not a false alarm has occurred.
- (2) An alarm user subject to an order to disconnect for failure to make reasonable efforts toward correction of a false alarm situation may appeal the determination that such reasonable efforts were not made.
- (3) An alarm user subject to an order to disconnect for failure to obtain or renew a user's permit as required by Section 542.10 may appeal the issue of whether or not that user had a permit in effect for the location in question or was required by this chapter to have such a permit.
- (4) An alarm user subject to an order to disconnect for failure to pay when due an administrative fee assessed under Section 542.11 for excessive false alarms may appeal the issue of whether or not such payment was made on time.

(b) A written request for an appeal must be submitted to the Chief of Police within ten (10) days after notice of the false alarm administrative fee or of a disconnect order was mailed or otherwise delivered to the last known address of the alarm user or to the address at which the alarm system is located. The alarm user-appellant shall have the right to present written and oral evidence to the Chief of Police at a hearing on the appeal and shall have the burden of proving his or her case by a preponderance of the credible evidence. Notice of the hearing date, hour and place shall be mailed or otherwise delivered to the last known address of the appellant or to the address at which the alarm system is located at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing.

The Chief of Police may sustain, modify or reverse the decisions appealed from and the decision of the Police Chief shall be made in writing and shall constitute a final administrative order. (Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)

**542.99 PENALTY.**

(a) Enforcement of any of the provisions of the chapter may be by civil action and/or criminal prosecution.

(b) Failure or omission to comply with any section or provision of this chapter shall be deemed a violation. Each day such a failure or omission continues to exist after written notice of that failure or omission is mailed or otherwise delivered to the last known address of the alarm user or to the address at which the alarm system is located shall constitute a separate violation.

(c) Each violation of any section or provision within this chapter shall be a fourth degree misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 1060-94. Passed 2-10-94.)





**CHAPTER 545**  
**Theft and Fraud**

<b>545.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>545.11</b>	<b>Making or using slugs.</b>
<b>545.02</b>	<b>Determining property value in theft offense.</b>	<b>545.12</b>	<b>Tampering with coin machines.</b>
<b>545.03</b>	<b>Property exceptions as felony offense.</b>	<b>545.13</b>	<b>Criminal simulation.</b>
<b>545.04</b>	<b>Detention of shoplifters; rights of museums and libraries.</b>	<b>545.14</b>	<b>Tampering with records.</b>
<b>545.05</b>	<b>Petty theft.</b>	<b>545.15</b>	<b>Securing writings by deception.</b>
<b>545.06</b>	<b>Unauthorized use of a vehicle; vehicle trespass.</b>	<b>545.16</b>	<b>Personating an officer.</b>
<b>545.07</b>	<b>Insurance fraud.</b>	<b>545.17</b>	<b>Defrauding creditors.</b>
<b>545.08</b>	<b>Unauthorized use of property.</b>	<b>545.18</b>	<b>Receiving stolen property.</b>
<b>545.09</b>	<b>Passing bad checks.</b>	<b>545.19</b>	<b>Possession of criminal tools.</b>
<b>545.10</b>	<b>Misuse of credit cards.</b>	<b>545.20</b>	<b>Forgery of identification cards.</b>
		<b>545.21</b>	<b>Identity fraud.</b>
		<b>545.22</b>	<b>Label or marking alteration; container transfer.</b>
		<b>545.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Property defined - see GEN. OFF. 501.01(j)  
 Cheating - see GEN. OFF. 517.05  
 Falsification - see GEN. OFF. 525.02  
 Impersonating a public servant - see GEN. OFF. 525.03

**545.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires that a term be given a different meaning:

- (a) "Deception" means knowingly deceiving another or causing another to be deceived, by any false or misleading representation, by withholding information, by preventing another from acquiring information, or by any other conduct, act or omission that creates, confirms or perpetuates a false impression in another, including a false impression as to law, value, state of mind, or other objective or subjective fact.

- (b) "Defraud" means to knowingly obtain, by deception, some benefit for oneself or another, or to knowingly cause, by deception, some detriment to another.
- (c) "Deprive" means to do any of the following:
  - (1) Withhold property of another permanently, or for such period that appropriates a substantial portion of its value or use, or with purpose to restore it only upon payment of a reward or other consideration;
  - (2) Dispose of property so as to make it unlikely that the owner will recover it;
  - (3) Accept, use or appropriate money, property or services, with purpose not to give proper consideration in return for the money, property or services, and without reasonable justification or excuse for not giving proper consideration.
- (d) "Owner" means, unless the context requires a different meaning, any person, other than the actor, who is the owner of, who has possession or control of, or who has any license or interest in property or services, even though the ownership, possession, control, license or interest is unlawful.
- (e) "Services" include labor, personal services, professional services, rental services, public utility services, including wireless service as defined in Ohio R.C. 5507.01(F)(1), common carrier services, and food, drink, transportation, entertainment and cable television services.
- (f) "Writing" means any computer software, document, letter, memorandum, note, paper, plate, data, film or other thing having in or upon it any written, typewritten or printed matter, and any token, stamp, seal, credit card, badge, trademark, label or other symbol of value, right, privilege, license or identification.
- (g) "Forge" means to fabricate or create, in whole or in part and by any means any spurious writing, or to make, execute, alter, complete, reproduce or otherwise purport to authenticate any writing, when the writing in fact is not authenticated by that conduct.
- (h) "Utter" means to issue, publish, transfer, use, put or send into circulation, deliver or display.
- (i) "Coin machine" means any mechanical or electronic device designed to do both of the following:
  - (1) Receive a coin, bill, or token made for that purpose;
  - (2) In return for the insertion or deposit of a coin, bill or token, automatically dispense property, provide a service or grant a license.
- (j) "Slug" means an object that, by virtue of its size, shape, composition or other quality, is capable of being inserted or deposited in a coin machine as an improper substitute for a genuine coin, bill or token made for that purpose.
- (k) "Theft offense" means any of the following:
  - (1) A violation of Ohio R.C. 2911.01, 2911.02, 2911.11, 2911.12, 2911.13, 2911.31, 2911.32, 2913.02, 2913.03, 2913.04, 2913.041, 2913.11, 2913.21, 2913.31, 2913.32, 2913.33, 2913.34, 2913.40, 2913.42 to 2913.45, 2913.47, 2913.48, 2913.51, 2915.05, 2915.06, 2921.41 or 4737.04(B)(2).

- (2) A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States substantially equivalent to any section listed in subsection (k)(1) hereof or a violation of Ohio R.C. 2913.41, 2913.81 or 2915.06 as it existed prior to July 1, 1996;
- (3) An offense under an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States involving robbery, burglary, breaking and entering, theft, embezzlement, wrongful conversion, forgery, counterfeiting, deceit or fraud;
- (4) A conspiracy or attempt to commit, or complicity in committing any offense under subsection (k)(1), (2) or (3) hereof.
- (l) "Computer services" includes, but is not limited to, the use of a computer system, computer network, computer program, data that is prepared for computer use or data that is contained within a computer system or computer network.
- (m) "Computer" means an electronic device that performs logical, arithmetic and memory functions by the manipulation of electronic or magnetic impulses. "Computer" includes, but is not limited to, all input, output, processing, storage, computer program or communication facilities that are connected or related, in a computer system or network to an electronic device of that nature.
- (n) "Computer system" means a computer and related devices, whether connected or unconnected, including, but not limited to, data input, output and storage devices, data communications links, and computer programs and data that make the system capable of performing specified special purpose data processing tasks.
- (o) "Computer network" means a set of related and remotely connected computers and communication facilities that includes more than one computer system that has the capability to transmit among the connected computers and communication facilities through the use of computer facilities.
- (p) "Computer program" means an ordered set of data representing coded instructions or statements that when executed by a computer cause the computer to process data.
- (q) "Computer software" means computer programs, procedures and other documentation associated with the operation of a computer system.
- (r) "Data" means a representation of information, knowledge, facts, concepts or instructions that are being or have been prepared in a formalized manner and that are intended for use in a computer, computer system or computer network. For purposes of Section 545.07, "data" has the additional meaning set forth in subsection (a) of that section.
- (s) "Cable television service" means any services provided by or through the facilities of any cable television system or other similar closed circuit coaxial cable communications system, or any microwave or similar transmission service used in connection with any cable television system or other similar closed circuit coaxial cable communications system.
- (t) "Gain access" means to approach, instruct, communicate with, store data in, retrieve data from or otherwise make use of any resources of a computer, computer system or computer network.
- (u) "Credit card" includes, but is not limited to, a card, code, device or other means of access to a customer's account for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor or services on credit, or for initiating an electronic fund transfer at a point-of-sale terminal, an automated teller machine or a cash dispensing machine.
- (v) "Electronic fund transfer" has the same meaning as in 92 Stat. 3728, 15 U.S.C.A. 1693a, as amended.

- (w) “Rented property” means personal property in which the right of possession and use of the property is for a short and possibly indeterminate term in return for consideration; the rentee generally controls the duration of possession of the property, within any applicable minimum or maximum term; and the amount of consideration generally is determined by the duration of possession of the property.
- (x) “Telecommunication” means the origination, emission, dissemination, transmission, or reception of data, images, signals, sounds, or other intelligence or equivalence of intelligence or any nature over any communications system by any method, including, but not limited to, a fiber optic, electronic, magnetic, optical, digital, or analog method.
- (y) “Telecommunications device” means any instrument, equipment, machine, or other device that facilitates telecommunication, including, but not limited to, a computer, computer network, computer chip, computer circuit, scanner, telephone, cellular telephone, pager, personal communications device, transponder, receiver, radio, modem, or device that enables the use of a modem.
- (z) “Telecommunications service” means the providing, allowing, facilitating, or generating of any form of telecommunication through the use of a telecommunications device over a telecommunications system.
- (aa) “Counterfeit telecommunications device” means a telecommunications device that, alone or with another telecommunications device, has been altered, constructed, manufactured, or programmed to acquire, intercept, receive, or otherwise facilitate the use of a telecommunications service or information service without the authority or consent of the provider of the telecommunications service or information service. “Counterfeit telecommunications device” includes, but is not limited to, a clone telephone, clone microchip, tumbler telephone, or tumbler microchip; a wireless scanning device capable of acquiring, intercepting, receiving, or otherwise facilitating the use of telecommunications service or information service without immediate detection; or a device, equipment, hardware, or software designed for, or capable of, altering or changing the electronic serial number in a wireless telephone.
- (bb) (1) “Information service” means, subject to subsection (bb)(2) hereof, the offering of a capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing, or making available information via telecommunications, including, but not limited to, electronic publishing.  
(2) “Information service” does not include any use of a capability of a type described in subsection (bb)(1) hereof for the management, control, or operation of a telecommunications system or the management of a telecommunications service.
- (cc) “Elderly person” means a person who is sixty-five years of age or older.
- (dd) “Disabled adult” means a person who is eighteen years of age or older and has some impairment of body or mind that makes the person unfit to work at any substantially remunerative employment that the person otherwise would be able to perform and that will, with reasonable probability, continue for a period of at least twelve months without any present indication of recovery from the impairment, or who is eighteen years of age or older and has been certified as permanently and totally disabled by an agency of this State or the United States that has the function of so classifying persons.
- (ee) “Firearm” and “dangerous ordnance” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2923.11.
- (ff) “Motor vehicle” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4501.01.
- (gg) “Dangerous drug” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4729.01.
- (hh) “Drug abuse offense” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2925.01.  
(ORC 2913.01)

- (ii) “Police dog or horse” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2921.321.
- (jj) “Anhydrous ammonia” is a compound formed by the combination of two gaseous elements, nitrogen and hydrogen, in the manner described in this subsection. Anhydrous ammonia is one part nitrogen to three parts hydrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>). Anhydrous ammonia by weight is fourteen parts nitrogen to three parts hydrogen, which is approximately eighty-two per cent nitrogen to eighteen per cent hydrogen.
- (kk) “Assistance dog” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 955.011.
- (ll) “Active duty service member” means any member of the armed forces of the United States performing active duty under Title 10 of the United States Code. (ORC 2913.01)

**545.02 DETERMINING PROPERTY VALUE IN THEFT OFFENSE.**

(a) If more than one item of property or service is involved in a theft offense, the value of the property or services involved for the purpose of determining the value is the aggregate value of all property or services involved in the offense.

- (b) (1) When a series of offenses under Section 545.05, or a series of violations of, attempts to commit a violation of, conspiracies to violate, or complicity in violations of Section 545.05, 545.06, or 545.08, 545.10(b)(1) or (2), or Section 545.15 or 545.20 involving a victim who is an elderly person or disabled adult, is committed by the offender in the offender’s same employment, capacity, or relationship to another, all of those offenses shall be tried as a single offense. When a series of offenses under Section 545.05, or a series of violations of, attempts to commit a violation of, conspiracies to violate, or complicity in violations of Sections 545.05 or 545.15 involving a victim who is an active duty service member or spouse of an active duty service member is committed by the offender in the offender’s same employment, capacity or relationship to another, all of those offenses shall be tried as a single offense. The value of the property or services involved in the series of offenses for the purpose of determining the value is the aggregate value of all property and services involved in all offenses in the series.
- (2) If an offender commits a series of offenses under Section 545.05 that involves a common course of conduct to defraud multiple victims, all of the offenses may be tried as a single offense. If an offender is being tried for the commission of a series of violations of, attempts to commit a violation of, conspiracies to violate, or complicity in violations of Section 545.05, 545.06 or 545.08, Section 545.10(b)(1) or (2), or Section 545.15 or 545.20, whether committed against one victim or more than one victim, involving a victim who is an elderly person or disabled adult, pursuant to a scheme or course of conduct, all of those offenses may be tried as a single offense. If the offender is being tried for the commission of a series of violations of, attempts to commit a violation of, conspiracies to violate, or complicity in violations of Section 545.05 or 545.15, whether committed against one victim or more than one victim, involving a victim who is an active duty service member or spouse of an active duty service member pursuant to a scheme or course of conduct, all of those offenses may be tried as a single offense. If the offenses are tried as a single offense, the value of the property or services involved for the purpose of determining the value is the aggregate value of all property and services involved in all of the offenses in the course of conduct.

- (3) In prosecuting a single offense under subsection (b)(1) or (2), it is not necessary to separately allege and prove each offense in the series. Rather, it is sufficient to allege and prove that the offender, within a given span of time, committed one or more theft offenses in the offender's same employment, capacity, or relationship to another as described in subsection (b)(1) of this section or that involve a common course of conduct to defraud multiple victims or a scheme or course of conduct as described in subsection (b)(2) of this section. While it is not necessary to separately allege and prove each offense in the series in order to prosecute a single offense under subsection (b)(1) or (2) hereof, it remains necessary in prosecuting them as a single offense to prove the aggregate value of the property or services in order to meet the requisite statutory offense level sought by the prosecution.
- (c) The following criteria shall be used in determining the value of property or services involved in a theft offense:
  - (1) The value of an heirloom, memento, collector's item, antique, museum piece, manuscript, document, record or other thing that has intrinsic worth to its owner and that is either irreplaceable or is replaceable only on the expenditure of substantial time, effort or money, is the amount that would compensate the owner for its loss.
  - (2) The value of personal effects and household goods, and of materials, supplies, equipment and fixtures used in the profession, business, trade, occupation or avocation of its owner, which property is not covered under subsection (c)(1) hereof, and which retains substantial utility for its purpose regardless of its age or condition, is the cost of replacing the property with new property of like kind and quality.
  - (3) The value of any real or personal property that is not covered under subsections (c)(1) or (2) hereof, and the value of services, is the fair market value of the property or services. As used in this section, "fair market value" is the money consideration that a buyer would give and a seller would accept for property or services, assuming that the buyer is willing to buy and the seller is willing to sell, that both are fully informed as to all facts material to the transaction, and that neither is under any compulsion to act.
- (d) Without limitation on the evidence that may be used to establish the value of property or services involved in a theft offense:
  - (1) When the property involved is personal property held for sale at wholesale or retail, the price at which the property was held for sale is prima-facie evidence of its value.
  - (2) When the property involved is a security or commodity traded on an exchange, the closing price or, if there is no closing price, the asked price, given in the latest market quotation prior to the offense, is prima-facie evidence of the value of the security or commodity.
  - (3) When the property involved is livestock, poultry or raw agricultural products for which a local market price is available, the latest local market price prior to the offense is prima-facie evidence of the value of the livestock, poultry or products.
  - (4) When the property involved is a negotiable instrument, the face value is prima-facie evidence of the value of the instrument.

- (5) When the property involved is a warehouse receipt, bill of lading, pawn ticket, claim check or other instrument entitling the holder or bearer to receive property, the face value or, if there is no face value, the value of the property covered by the instrument less any payment necessary to receive the property, is prima-facie evidence of the value of the instrument.
- (6) When the property involved is a ticket of admission, ticket for transportation, coupon, token or other instrument entitling the holder or bearer to receive property or services, the face value or, if there is no face value, the value of the property or services that may be received by the instrument, is prima-facie evidence of the value of the instrument.
- (7) When the services involved are gas, electricity, water, telephone, transportation, shipping or other services for which the rate is established by law, the duly established rate is prima-facie evidence of the value of the services.
- (8) When the services involved are services for which the rate is not established by law, and the offender has been notified prior to the offense of the rate for the services, either in writing or orally, or by posting in a manner reasonably calculated to come to the attention of potential offenders, the rate contained in the notice is prima-facie evidence of the value of the services. (ORC 2913.61)

#### **545.03 PROPERTY EXCEPTIONS AS FELONY OFFENSE.**

Regardless of the value of the property involved, and regardless of whether the offender has previously been convicted of a theft offense, the provisions of Section 545.05 or 545.18 do not apply if the property involved is any of the following:

- (a) A credit card;
- (b) A printed form for a check or other negotiable instrument, that on its face identifies the drawer or maker for whose use it is designed or identifies the account on which it is to be drawn, and that has not been executed by the drawer or maker or on which the amount is blank;
- (c) A firearm or dangerous ordnance as defined in Ohio R.C. 2923.11;
- (d) A motor vehicle identification license plate as prescribed by Ohio R.C. 4503.22, a temporary license placard or windshield sticker as prescribed by Ohio R.C. 4503.182, or any comparable license plate, placard or sticker as prescribed by the applicable law of another state or the United States;
- (e) A blank form for a certificate of title or a manufacturer's or importer's certificate to a motor vehicle, as prescribed by Ohio R.C. 4505.07;
- (f) A blank form for any license listed in Ohio R.C. 4507.01(A).  
(ORC 2913.71)

#### **545.04 DETENTION OF SHOPLIFTERS; RIGHTS OF MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES.**

(a) A merchant, or his employee or agent, who has probable cause to believe that items offered for sale by a mercantile establishment have been unlawfully taken by a person, may, for the purposes set forth in subsection (c) hereof, detain the person in a reasonable manner for a reasonable length of time within the mercantile establishment or its immediate vicinity.

(b) Any officer, employee or agent of a library, museum or archival institution may, for the purposes set forth in subsection (c) hereof or for the purpose of conducting a reasonable investigation of a belief that the person has acted in a manner described in subsections (b)(1) and (2) hereof, detain a person in a reasonable manner for a reasonable length of time within, or in the immediate vicinity of the library, museum or archival institution, if the officer, employee or agent has probable cause to believe that the person has either:

- (1) Without privilege to do so, knowingly moved, defaced, damaged, destroyed or otherwise improperly tampered with property owned by or in the custody of the library, museum or archival institution; or
- (2) With purpose to deprive the library, museum or archival institution of property owned by it or in its custody, knowingly obtained or exerted control over the property without the consent of the owner or person authorized to give consent, beyond the scope of the express or implied consent of the owner or person authorized to give consent, by deception, or by threat.

(c) An officer, agent or employee of a library, museum or archival institution pursuant to subsection (b) hereof or a merchant or his employee or agent pursuant to subsection (a) hereof may detain another person for any of the following purposes:

- (1) To recover the property that is the subject of the unlawful taking, criminal mischief or theft;
- (2) To cause an arrest to be made by a peace officer;
- (3) To obtain a warrant of arrest.
- (4) To offer the person, if the person is suspected of the unlawful taking, criminal mischief, or theft and notwithstanding any other provision of this General Offenses or the Ohio Revised Code, an opportunity to complete a pretrial diversion program and to inform the person of the other legal remedies available to the library, museum, archival institution or merchant.

(d) The officer, agent or employee of the library, museum or archival institution, or the merchant or his employee or agent acting under subsection (a) or (b) hereof shall not search the person, search or seize any property belonging to the person detained without the person's consent, or use undue restraint upon the person detained.

(e) Any peace officer may arrest without a warrant any person that he has probable cause to believe has committed any act described in subsection (b)(1) or (2) hereof or that he has probable cause to believe has committed an unlawful taking in a mercantile establishment. An arrest under this subsection shall be made within a reasonable time after the commission of the act or unlawful taking.

(f) As used in this section:

- (1) "Archival institution" means any public or private building, structure or shelter in which are stored historical documents, devices, records, manuscripts or items of public interest, which historical materials are stored to preserve the materials or the information in the materials, to disseminate the information contained in the materials, or to make the materials available for public inspection or for inspection by certain persons who have a particular interest in, use for or knowledge concerning the materials.
- (2) "Museum" means any public or private nonprofit institution that is permanently organized for primarily educational or aesthetic purposes, owns or borrows objects or items of public interest, and cares for and exhibits to the public the objects or items.
- (3) "Pretrial diversion program" means a rehabilitative, educational program designed to reduce recidivism and promote personal responsibility that is at least four hours in length and that has been approved by any court in this State. (ORC 2935.041)



**545.05 PETTY THEFT.**

(a) No person, with purpose to deprive the owner of property or services, shall knowingly obtain or exert control over either the property or services in any of the following ways:

- (1) Without the consent of the owner or person authorized to give consent;
- (2) Beyond the scope of the express or implied consent of the owner or person authorized to give consent;
- (3) By deception;
- (4) By threat;
- (5) By intimidation.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of petty theft, a misdemeanor of the first degree. Petty theft is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law if:

- (1) The value of the property or services stolen is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more; or
- (2) The victim of the offense is an elderly person, disabled adult, active duty service member, or spouse of an active duty service member, or
- (3) The property stolen is a firearm or dangerous ordnance, or
- (4) The property stolen is a motor vehicle, or
- (5) The property stolen is any dangerous drug, or
- (6) The property stolen is a police dog or horse or an assistance dog and the offender knows or should know that the property stolen is a police dog or horse or an assistance dog, or
- (7) The property stolen is anhydrous ammonia, or
- (8) The property stolen is a special purpose article as defined in Ohio R.C. 4737.04 or a bulk merchandise container as defined in Ohio R.C. 4737.012.

(c) In addition to the penalties described in subsection (b) of this section, if the offender committed the violation by causing a motor vehicle to leave the premises of an establishment at which gasoline is offered for retail sale without the offender making full payment for gasoline that was dispensed into the fuel tank of the motor vehicle or into another container, the court may do one of the following:

- (1) Unless subsection (c)(2) of this section applies, suspend for not more than six months the offender's driver's license, probationary driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or nonresident operating privilege;
- (2) If the offender's driver's license, probationary driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or nonresident operating privilege has previously been suspended pursuant to subsection (c)(1) of this section, impose a class seven suspension of the offender's license, permit, or privilege from the range specified in Ohio R.C. 4510.02(A)(7), provided that the suspension shall be for at least six months.
- (3) The court, in lieu of suspending the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license, probationary driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or nonresident operating privilege pursuant to subsections (c)(1) or (2) of this section, instead may require the offender to perform community service for a number of hours determined by the court.

(d) In addition to the penalties described in subsection (b) hereof, if the offender committed the violation by stealing rented property or rental services, the court may order that the offender make restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.18 or 2929.28. Restitution may include, but is not limited to, the cost of repairing or replacing the stolen property, or the cost of repairing the stolen property and any loss of revenue resulting from deprivation of the property due to theft of rental services that is less than or equal to the actual value of the property at the time it was rented. Evidence of intent to commit theft of rented property or rental services shall be determined pursuant to the provisions of Ohio R.C. 2913.72.

(e) The sentencing court that suspends an offender's license, permit, or nonresident operating privilege under subsection (c) of this section may grant the offender limited driving privileges during the period of the suspension in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 4510. (ORC 2913.02)

#### **545.06 UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE; VEHICLE TRESPASS.**

(a) No person shall knowingly use or operate an aircraft, motor vehicle, motorcycle, motorboat or other motor-propelled vehicle without the consent of the owner or person authorized to give consent.

(b) This section does not apply to property removed from the State or if possession is kept for more than forty-eight hours.

(c) The following are affirmative defenses to a charge under this section:

- (1) At the time of the alleged offense, the actor, though mistaken, reasonably believed that the actor was authorized to use or operate the property.
- (2) At the time of the alleged offense, the actor reasonably believed that the owner or person empowered to give consent would authorize the actor to use or operate the property.

(d) No person shall knowingly enter into or upon a motor vehicle, motorcycle or other motor-propelled vehicle without the consent of the owner or person authorized to give consent.

(e) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of unauthorized use of a vehicle, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the victim of the offense is an elderly person or disabled adult and if the victim incurs a loss as a result of the violation, a violation of subsection (a) hereof is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2913.03)

(f) Whoever violates subsection (d) hereof is guilty of vehicle trespass, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

#### **545.07 INSURANCE FRAUD.**

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Data" has the same meaning as in Section 545.01 and additionally includes any other representation of information, knowledge, facts, concepts or instructions that are being or have been prepared in a formalized manner.
- (2) "Deceptive" means that a statement, in whole or in part, would cause another to be deceived because it contains a misleading representation, withholds information, prevents the acquisition of information or by any other conduct, act or omission creates, confirms or perpetuates a false impression, including, but not limited to, a false impression as to law, value, state of mind or other objective or subjective fact.

- (3) "Insurer" means any person that is authorized to engage in the business of insurance in this State under Title XXXIX of the Ohio Revised Code; The Ohio Fair Plan Underwriting Association created under Ohio R.C. 3929.43; any health insuring corporation; and any legal entity that is self-insured and provides benefits to its employees or members.
- (4) "Policy" means a policy, certificate, contract or plan that is issued by an insurer.
- (5) "Statement" includes, but is not limited to, any notice, letter or memorandum; proof of loss; bill of lading; receipt for payment; invoice, account or other financial statement; estimate of property damage; bill for services; diagnosis or prognosis; prescription; hospital, medical or dental chart or other record; X-Ray, photograph, videotape or movie film; test result; other evidence of loss, injury or expense; computer-generated document; and data in any form.

(b) No person, with purpose to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, shall do either of the following:

- (1) Present to, or cause to be presented to, an insurer any written or oral statement that is part of, or in support of, an application for insurance, a claim for payment pursuant to a policy or a claim for any other benefit pursuant to a policy, knowing that the statement, or any part of the statement, is false or deceptive;
- (2) Assist, aid, abet, solicit, procure or conspire with another to prepare or make any written or oral statement that is intended to be presented to an insurer as part of, or in support of, an application for insurance, a claim for payment pursuant to a policy, or a claim for any other benefit pursuant to a policy, knowing that the statement, or any part of the statement, is false or deceptive.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of insurance fraud a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the amount of the claim that is false or deceptive is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, insurance fraud is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(d) This section shall not be construed to abrogate, waive or modify Ohio R.C. 2317.02(A). (ORC 2913.47)

#### **545.08 UNAUTHORIZED USE OF PROPERTY.**

(a) No person shall knowingly use or operate the property of another without the consent of the owner or person authorized to give consent.

(b) The affirmative defenses contained in Section 545.06(c) are affirmative defenses to a charge under this section.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of unauthorized use of property. Except as provided in subsection (d) hereof, unauthorized use of property is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(d) If unauthorized use of property is committed for the purpose of devising or executing a scheme to defraud or to obtain property or services, unauthorized use of property is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Unauthorized use of property is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law if:

- (1) Unauthorized use of property is committed for the purpose of devising or executing a scheme to defraud or to obtain property or services, and if the value of the property is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more; or

- (2) If the victim of the offense is an elderly person or disabled adult.  
(ORC 2913.04)

**545.09 PASSING BAD CHECKS.**

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Check" includes any form of debit from a demand deposit account, including, but not limited to any of the following:
  - A. A check, bill of exchange, draft, order of withdrawal, or similar negotiable or nonnegotiable instrument;
  - B. An electronic check, electronic transaction, debit card transaction, check card transaction, substitute check, web check, or any form of automated clearing house transaction.
- (2) "Issue a check" means causing any form of debit from a demand deposit account.

(b) No person, with purpose to defraud, shall issue or transfer or cause to be issued or transferred a check or other negotiable instrument, knowing that it will be dishonored or knowing that a person has ordered or will order stop payment on the check or other negotiable instrument.

(c) For purposes of this section, a person who issues or transfers a check or other negotiable instrument is presumed to know that it will be dishonored, if either of the following occurs:

- (1) The drawer had no account with the drawee at the time of issue or the stated date, whichever is later.
- (2) The check or other negotiable instrument was properly refused payment for insufficient funds upon presentment within thirty days after issue or the stated date, whichever is later, and the liability of the drawer, indorser or any party who may be liable thereon is not discharged by payment or satisfaction within ten days after receiving notice of dishonor.

(d) For purposes of this section, a person who issues or transfers a check, bill of exchange or other draft is presumed to have the purpose to defraud if the drawer fails to comply with Ohio R.C. 1349.16 by doing any of the following when opening a checking account intended for personal, family or household purposes at a financial institution:

- (1) Falsely stating that the drawer has not been issued a valid driver's or commercial driver's license or identification card issued under Ohio R.C. 4507.50;
- (2) Furnishing such license or card, or another identification document that contains false information;
- (3) Making a false statement with respect to the drawer's current address or any additional relevant information reasonably required by the financial institution.

(e) In determining the value of the payment for purposes of subsection (f) of this section, the court may aggregate all checks and other negotiable instruments that the offender issued or transferred or caused to be issued or transferred in violation of subsection (a) of this section within a period of one hundred eighty consecutive days.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of passing bad checks. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, passing bad checks is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the check or checks or other negotiable instrument or instruments are issued or transferred to a single vendor or single other person for the payment of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more or if the check or checks or other negotiable instrument or instruments are issued or transferred to multiple vendors or persons for the payment of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) or more, passing bad checks is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2913.11)

#### **545.10 MISUSE OF CREDIT CARDS.**

- (a) No person shall do any of the following:
- (1) Practice deception for the purpose of procuring the issuance of a credit card, when a credit card is issued in actual reliance thereon;
  - (2) Knowingly buy or sell a credit card from or to a person other than the issuer.
- (b) No person, with purpose to defraud, shall do any of the following:
- (1) Obtain control over a credit card as security for a debt;
  - (2) Obtain property or services by the use of a credit card, in one or more transactions, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the card has expired or been revoked, or was obtained, is retained or is being used in violation of law;
  - (3) Furnish property or services upon presentation of a credit card, knowing that the card is being used in violation of law;
  - (4) Represent or cause to be represented to the issuer of a credit card that property or services have been furnished, knowing that the representation is false.
- (c) No person, with purpose to violate this section, shall receive, possess, control or dispose of a credit card.
- (d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of misuse of credit cards, a misdemeanor of the first degree. Misuse of credit cards is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law if:
- (1) The cumulative retail value of the property and services involved in one or more violations of subsection (b)(2), (3) or (4) hereof, which violations involve one or more credit card accounts and occur within a period of ninety consecutive days commencing on the date of the first violation, is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more; or
  - (2) The victim of the offense is an elderly person or disabled adult and the offense involves a violation of subsection (b)(1) or (2) hereof.
- (ORC 2913.21)

#### **545.11 MAKING OR USING SLUGS.**

- (a) No person shall do any of the following:
- (1) Insert or deposit a slug in a coin machine, with purpose to defraud;
  - (2) Make, possess or dispose of a slug, with purpose of enabling another to defraud by inserting or depositing it in a coin machine.
- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of making or using slugs, a misdemeanor of the second degree. (ORC 2913.33)

#### **545.12 TAMPERING WITH COIN MACHINES.**

- (a) No person, with purpose to commit theft or to defraud, shall knowingly enter, force an entrance into, tamper with or insert any part of an instrument into any coin machine.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of tampering with coin machines, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender has previously been convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 2911.32 or of any theft offense, tampering with coin machines is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2911.32)

#### **545.13 CRIMINAL SIMULATION.**

(a) No person, with purpose to defraud, or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Make or alter any object so that it appears to have value because of antiquity, rarity, curiosity, source, or authorship, which it does not in fact possess;
- (2) Practice deception in making, retouching, editing, or reproducing any photograph, movie film, video tape, phonograph record, or recording tape;
- (3) Falsely or fraudulently make, simulate, forge, alter, or counterfeit any wrapper, label, stamp, cork, or cap prescribed by the Liquor Control Commission under Ohio R.C. Chapters 4301 and 4303, falsely or fraudulently cause to be made, simulated, forged, altered, or counterfeited any wrapper, label, stamp, cork, or cap prescribed by the Liquor Control Commission under Ohio R.C. Chapters 4301 and 4303, or use more than once any wrapper, label, stamp, cork, or cap prescribed by the Liquor Control Commission under Ohio R.C. Chapters 4301 and 4303.
- (4) Utter, or possess with purpose to utter, any object that the person knows to have been simulated as provided in subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of criminal simulation, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the loss to the victim is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, criminal simulation is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2913.32)

#### **545.14 TAMPERING WITH RECORDS.**

(a) No person, knowing the person has no privilege to do so, and with purpose to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Falsify, destroy, remove, conceal, alter, deface or mutilate any writing, computer software, data, or record;
- (2) Utter any writing or record, knowing it to have been tampered with as provided in subsection (a)(1) hereof.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of tampering with records, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the violation involves data or computer software the value of which or loss to the victim is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, or if the writing or record is a will unrevoked at the time of the offense, tampering with records is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2913.42)

#### **545.15 SECURING WRITINGS BY DECEPTION.**

(a) No person, by deception, shall cause another to execute any writing that disposes of or encumbers property, or by which a pecuniary obligation is incurred.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of securing writings by deception, a misdemeanor of the first degree. Securing writings by deception is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law if:

- (1) The value of the property or obligation involved is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more; or

- (2) The victim of the offense is an elderly person, disabled adult, active duty service member or spouse of an active duty service member.  
(ORC 2913.43)

**545.16 PERSONATING AN OFFICER.**

(a) No person, with purpose to defraud or knowing that he is facilitating a fraud, or with purpose to induce another to purchase property or services, shall personate a law enforcement officer, or an inspector, investigator or agent of any governmental agency.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of personating an officer, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2913.44)

**545.17 DEFRAUDING CREDITORS.**

(a) No person, with purpose to defraud one or more of the person's creditors, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Remove, conceal, destroy, encumber, convey or otherwise deal with any of the person's property.
- (2) Misrepresent or refuse to disclose to a fiduciary appointed to administer or manage the person's affairs or estate, the existence, amount or location of any of the person's property, or any other information regarding such property that the person is legally required to furnish to the fiduciary.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of defrauding creditors, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the value of the property involved is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, defrauding creditors is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(ORC 2913.45)

**545.18 RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY.**

(a) No person shall receive, retain or dispose of property of another, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the property has been obtained through commission of a theft offense.

(b) It is not a defense to a charge of receiving stolen property in violation of this section that the property was obtained by means other than through the commission of a theft offense if the property was explicitly represented to the accused person as being obtained through the commission of a theft offense.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of receiving stolen property, a misdemeanor of the first degree. Receiving stolen property is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law if:

- (1) The value of the property involved is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more; or
  - (2) The property involved is:
    - A. Listed in Section 545.03; or
    - B. A motor vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4501.01; or
    - C. A dangerous drug as defined in Ohio R.C. 4729.01.
    - D. A special purchase article as defined in Ohio R.C. 4737.04 or a bulk merchandise container as defined in Ohio R.C. 4737.012.
- (ORC 2913.51)

**545.19 POSSESSION OF CRIMINAL TOOLS.**

(a) No person shall possess or have under the person's control any substance, device, instrument, or article, with purpose to use it criminally.

- (b) Each of the following constitutes prima-facie evidence of criminal purpose:
- (1) Possession or control of any dangerous ordnance, or the materials or parts for making dangerous ordnance, in the absence of circumstances indicating the dangerous ordnance, materials, or parts are intended for legitimate use;
  - (2) Possession or control of any substance, device, instrument, or article designed or specially adapted for criminal use;
  - (3) Possession or control of any substance, device, instrument, or article commonly used for criminal purposes, under circumstances indicating the item is intended for criminal use.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of possessing criminal tools, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the circumstances indicate that the substance, device, instrument, or article involved in the offense was intended for use in the commission of a felony, possessing criminal tools is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 2923.24)

#### **545.20 FORGERY OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS.**

- (a) No person shall knowingly do either of the following:
- (1) Forge an identification card;
  - (2) Sell or otherwise distribute a card that purports to be an identification card, knowing it to have been forged.
  - (3) As used in this section, "identification card" means a card that includes personal information or characteristics of an individual, a purpose of which is to establish the identity of the bearer described on the card, whether the words "identity," "identification," "identification card" or other similar words appear on the card.

(b) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of forging identification cards or selling or distributing forged identification cards. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, forging or selling or distributing forged identification cards is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of this section or Ohio R.C. 2913.31 (B), forging identification cards or selling or distributing forged identification cards is a misdemeanor of the first degree and, in addition, the court shall impose upon the offender a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). (ORC 2913.31)

#### **545.21 IDENTITY FRAUD.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Section 545.21 has been deleted from the Codified Ordinances. Ohio R.C. 2913.49, from which Section 545.21 was derived, has been reclassified from a misdemeanor to a felony offense.)

#### **545.22 LABEL OR MARKING ALTERATION; CONTAINER TRANSFER.**

(a) No person shall willfully alter any label, price tag or marking upon any merchandise offered for sale by any store or other retail mercantile establishment with the intention of depriving the owner of all or some part of the value thereof.

(b) No person shall willfully transfer any merchandise offered for sale by any store or other retail mercantile establishment from the container in or on which the same is displayed to any other container with the intent to deprive the owner of all or some part of the value thereof.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

#### **545.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)



**CHAPTER 549**  
**Weapons and Explosives**

- |               |   |               |  |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| <b>549.01</b> | <b>Definitions.</b>                                     | <b>549.10</b> | <b>Possession of certain weapons prohibited.</b>                                 |
| <b>549.02</b> | <b>Carrying concealed weapons.</b>                      | <b>549.11</b> | <b>Use of cross bows, bow and arrows prohibited.</b>                             |
| <b>549.03</b> | <b>Using weapons while intoxicated.</b>                 | <b>549.12</b> | <b>Storage of explosives; blasting permit required.</b>                          |
| <b>549.04</b> | <b>Improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle.</b> | <b>549.13</b> | <b>Possessing replica firearm in school.</b>                                     |
| <b>549.05</b> | <b>Failure to secure dangerous ordnance.</b>            | <b>549.14</b> | <b>Use of revoked or suspended concealed handgun license.</b>                    |
| <b>549.06</b> | <b>Unlawful transactions in weapons.</b>                | <b>549.15</b> | <b>Defacing identification marks of a firearm; possessing a defaced firearm.</b> |
| <b>549.07</b> | <b>Underage purchase of firearm.</b>                    | <b>549.99</b> | <b>Penalty.</b>  |
| <b>549.08</b> | <b>Discharging weapons; exceptions.</b>                 |               |  |
| <b>549.09</b> | <b>Unlawful use of air guns.</b>                        |               |  |

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law

License or permit to possess dangerous ordnance - see Ohio R.C. 2923.18

Reporting gunshot and stab wounds - see GEN. OFF. 525.05(b)

Property destruction by tear gas device, etc. - see GEN. OFF. 541.04

**549.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Deadly weapon" means any instrument, device or thing capable of inflicting death, and designed or specially adapted for use as a weapon, or possessed, carried or used as a weapon.
- (b)
  - (1) "Firearm" means any deadly weapon capable of expelling or propelling one or more projectiles by the action of an explosive or combustible propellant. "Firearm" includes an unloaded firearm, and any firearm which is inoperable but which can readily be rendered operable.
  - (2) When determining whether a firearm is capable of expelling or propelling one or more projectiles by the action of an explosive or combustible propellant, the trier of fact may rely upon circumstantial evidence, including, but not limited to, the representations and actions of the individual exercising control over the firearm.
- (c) "Handgun" means any of the following:
  - (1) Any firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand;
  - (2) Any combination of parts from which a firearm of a type described in subsection (c)(1) of this section can be assembled.
- (d) "Semi-automatic firearm" means any firearm designed or specially adapted to fire a single cartridge and automatically chamber a succeeding cartridge ready to fire, with a single function of the trigger.

- (e) "Automatic firearm" means any firearm designed or specially adapted to fire a succession of cartridges with a single function of the trigger.
- (f) "Sawed-off firearm" means a shotgun with a barrel less than eighteen inches long, or a rifle with a barrel less than sixteen inches long, or a shotgun or rifle less than twenty-six inches long overall.
- (g) "Zip-gun" means any of the following:
  - (1) Any firearm of crude and extemporized manufacture;
  - (2) Any device, including without limitation a starter's pistol, not designed as a firearm, but which is specially adapted for use as a firearm;
  - (3) Any industrial tool, signalling device or safety device, not designed as a firearm, but which as designed is capable of use as such, when possessed, carried or used as a firearm.
- (h) "Explosive device" means any device designed or specially adapted to cause physical harm to persons or property by means of an explosion, and consisting of an explosive substance or agency and a means to detonate it. "Explosive device" includes without limitation any bomb, any explosive demolition device, any blasting cap or detonator containing an explosive charge, and any pressure vessel which has been knowingly tampered with or arranged so as to explode.
- (i) "Incendiary device" means any firebomb, and any device designed or specially adapted to cause physical harm to persons or property by means of fire, and consisting of an incendiary substance or agency and a means to ignite it.
- (j) "Ballistic knife" means a knife with a detachable blade that is propelled by a spring-operated mechanism.
- (k) "Dangerous ordnance" means any of the following, except as provided in subsection (l) hereof:
  - (1) Any automatic or sawed-off firearm, zip-gun or ballistic knife;
  - (2) Any explosive device or incendiary device;
  - (3) Nitroglycerin, nitrocellulose, nitrostarch, PETN, cyclonite, TNT, picric acid and other high explosives; amatol, tritonal, tetrytol, pentolite, pecretol, cyclotol and other high explosive compositions; plastic explosives; dynamite, blasting gelatin, gelatin dynamite, sensitized ammonium nitrate, liquid-oxygen blasting explosives, blasting powder and other blasting agents; and any other explosive substance having sufficient brisance or power to be particularly suitable for use as a military explosive, or for use in mining, quarrying, excavating or demolitions;
  - (4) Any firearm, rocket launcher, mortar, artillery piece, grenade, mine, bomb, torpedo or similar weapon, designed and manufactured for military purposes, and the ammunition for that weapon;
  - (5) Any firearm muffler or suppressor;
  - (6) Any combination of parts that is intended by the owner for use in converting any firearm or other device into a dangerous ordnance.
- (l) "Dangerous ordnance" does not include any of the following:
  - (1) Any firearm, including a military weapon and the ammunition for that weapon, and regardless of its actual age, which employs a percussion cap or other obsolete ignition system, or which is designed and safe for use only with black powder;
  - (2) Any pistol, rifle or shotgun, designed or suitable for sporting purposes, including a military weapon as issued or as modified, and the ammunition for that weapon unless the firearm is an automatic or sawed-off firearm;

- (3) Any cannon or other artillery piece which, regardless of its actual age, is of a type in accepted use prior to 1887, has no mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic or other system for absorbing recoil and returning the tube into battery without displacing the carriage, and is designed and safe for use only with black powder;
  - (4) Black powder, priming quills and percussion caps possessed and lawfully used to fire a cannon of a type defined in subsection (1)(3) hereof during displays, celebrations, organized matches or shoots, and target practice, and smokeless and black powder, primers and percussion caps possessed and lawfully used as a propellant or ignition device in small-arms or small-arms ammunition;
  - (5) Dangerous ordnance which is inoperable or inert and cannot readily be rendered operable or activated, and which is kept as a trophy, souvenir, curio or museum piece.
  - (6) Any device which is expressly excepted from the definition of a destructive device pursuant to the "Gun Control Act of 1968," 82 Stat. 1213, 18 U.S.C.921(a)(4), as amended, and regulations issued under that Act.
- (m) "Explosive" means any chemical compound, mixture, or device, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion. "Explosive" includes all materials that have been classified as division 1.1, division 1.2, division 1.3, or division 1.4 explosives by the United States Department of Transportation in its regulations and includes, but is not limited to, dynamite, black powder, pellet powders, initiating explosives, blasting caps, electric blasting caps, safety fuses, fuse igniters, squibs, cordeau detonant fuses, instantaneous fuses, and igniter cords and igniters. "Explosive" does not include "fireworks", as defined in Ohio R.C. 3743.01, or any substance or material otherwise meeting the definition of explosive set forth in this section that is manufactured, sold, possessed, transported, stored or used in any activity described in Ohio R.C. 3743.80, provided the activity is conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, the provisions of Ohio R.C. 3743.80, and the rules of the Fire Marshal adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3737.82.
- (n) (1) "Concealed handgun license" or "license to carry a concealed handgun" means, subject to subsection (n)(2) of this section, a license or temporary emergency license to carry a concealed handgun issued under Ohio R.C. 2923.125 or 2923.1213 or a license to carry a concealed handgun issued by another state with which the Attorney General has entered into a reciprocity agreement under Ohio R.C. 109.69.
- (2) A reference in any provision of the Ohio Revised Code to a concealed handgun license issued under Ohio R.C. 2923.125 or a license to carry a concealed handgun issued under Ohio R.C. 2923.125 means only a license of the type that is specified in that section. A reference in any provision of the Ohio Revised Code to a concealed handgun license issued under Ohio R.C. 2923.1213, a licence to carry a concealed handgun issued under Ohio R.C. 2923.1213, or a license to carry a concealed handgun on a temporary emergency basis means only a license of the type that is specified in Ohio R.C. 2923.1213. A reference in any provision of the Ohio Revised Code to a concealed handgun license issued by another state or a license to carry a concealed handgun issued by another state means only a license issued by another state with which the Attorney General has entered into a reciprocity agreement under Ohio R.C. 109.69.

- (o) “Valid concealed handgun license” or “valid license to carry a concealed handgun” means a concealed handgun license that is currently valid, that is not under a suspension under division (A)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2923.128, under Ohio R.C. 2923.1213, or under a suspension provision of the state other than this State in which the license was issued, and that has not been revoked under division (B)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2923.128, under Ohio R.C. 2923.1213 or under a revocation provision of the state other than this State in which the license was issued.
- (p) “Misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year” does not include any of the following:
  - (1) Any federal or state offense pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, restraints of trade or other similar offenses relating to the regulation of business practices;
  - (2) Any misdemeanor offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of two years or less.
- (q) “Alien registration number” means the number issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Agency that is located on the alien’s permanent resident card and may also be commonly referred to as the “USCIS number” or the “alien number”.
- (r) “Active duty” has the same meaning as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101. (ORC 2923.11)

#### **549.02 CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS.**

- (a) No person shall knowingly carry or have, concealed on the person’s person or concealed ready at hand, any of the following:
  - (1) A deadly weapon other than a handgun;
  - (2) A handgun other than a dangerous ordnance;
  - (3) A dangerous ordnance.
- (b) No person who has been issued a concealed handgun license, shall do any of the following:
  - (1) If the person is stopped for a law enforcement purpose, and is carrying a concealed handgun, fail to promptly inform any law enforcement officer who approaches the person after the person has been stopped that the person has been issued a concealed handgun license and that the person then is carrying a concealed handgun;
  - (2) If the person is stopped for a law enforcement purpose and is carrying a concealed handgun, knowingly fail to keep the person’s hands in plain sight at any time after any law enforcement officer begins approaching the person while stopped and before the law enforcement officer leaves, unless the failure is pursuant to and in accordance with directions given by a law enforcement officer;
  - (3) If the person is stopped for a law enforcement purpose and is carrying a concealed handgun, knowingly disregard or fail to comply with any lawful order of any law enforcement officer given while the person is stopped, including, but not limited to, a specific order to the person to keep the person’s hands in plain sight.

- (c) (1) This section does not apply to any of the following:
- A. An officer, agent or employee of this or any other state or the United States, or to a law enforcement officer, who is authorized to carry concealed weapons or dangerous ordnance, or is authorized to carry handguns and is acting within the scope of the officer's, agent's or employee's duties;
  - B. Any person who is employed in this State, who is authorized to carry concealed weapons or dangerous ordnance or is authorized to carry handguns, and who is subject to and in compliance with the requirements of Ohio R.C. 109.801 unless the appointing authority of the person has expressly specified that the exemption provided in subsection (c)(1)B. hereof does not apply to the person.
  - C. A person's transportation or storage of a firearm, other than a firearm described in divisions (G) to (M) of Ohio R.C. 2923.11 in a motor vehicle for any lawful purpose if the firearm is not on the actor's person;
  - D. A person's storage or possession of a firearm, other than a firearm described in divisions (G) to (M) of Ohio R.C. 2923.11 in the actor's own home for any lawful purpose.
- (2) Subsection (a)(2) of this section does not apply to any person who, at the time of the alleged carrying or possession of a handgun, either is carrying a valid concealed handgun license or is an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States and is carrying a valid military identification card and documentation of successful completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements described in division (G)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2923.125, unless the person knowingly is in a place described in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126.

(d) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under subsection (a)(1) of this section of carrying or having control of a weapon other than a handgun and other than a dangerous ordnance, that the actor was not otherwise prohibited by law from having the weapon, and that any of the following applies:

- (1) The weapon was carried or kept ready at hand by the actor for defensive purposes, while the actor was engaged in or was going to or from the actor's lawful business or occupation, which business or occupation was of a character or was necessarily carried on in a manner or at a time or place as to render the actor particularly susceptible to criminal attack, such as would justify a prudent person in going armed.
- (2) The weapon was carried or kept ready at hand by the actor for defensive purposes, while the actor was engaged in a lawful activity and had reasonable cause to fear a criminal attack upon the actor, a member of the actor's family, or the actor's home, such as would justify a prudent person in going armed.
- (3) The weapon was carried or kept ready at hand by the actor for any lawful purpose and while in the actor's own home.

(e) No person who is charged with a violation of this section shall be required to obtain a concealed handgun license as a condition for the dismissal of the charge.

- (f) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of carrying concealed weapons. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection or subsections (f)(2), (5) and (6) of this section, carrying concealed weapons in violation of subsection (a) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection or subsections (f)(2), (5) and (6) of this section, if the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of this section or of any offense of violence, if the weapon involved is a firearm that is either loaded or for which the offender has ammunition ready at hand, or if the weapon involved is dangerous ordnance, carrying concealed weapons in violation of subsection (a) of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (f)(2), (5) and (6) of this section, if the weapon involved is a firearm and the violation of this section is committed at premises for which a D permit has been issued under Chapter 4303, of the Revised Code or if the offense is committed aboard an aircraft, or with purpose to carry a concealed weapon aboard an aircraft, regardless of the weapon involved, carrying concealed weapons in violation of subsection (a) of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (f)(5) of this section, if a person being arrested for a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section promptly produces a valid concealed handgun license, and if at the time of the violation the person was not knowingly in a place described in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126, the officer shall not arrest the person for a violation of that subsection. If the person is not able to promptly produce any concealed handgun license and if the person is not in a place described in that section, the officer may arrest the person for a violation of that subsection, and the offender shall be punished as follows:
- A. The offender shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor if both of the following apply:
1. Within ten days after the arrest, the offender presents a concealed handgun license, which license was valid at the time of the arrest to the law enforcement agency that employs the arresting officer.
  2. At the time of the arrest, the offender was not knowingly in a place described in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126.
- B. The offender shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined five hundred dollars (\$500.00) if all of the following apply:
1. The offender previously had been issued a concealed handgun license and that license expired within the two years immediately preceding the arrest.
  2. Within forty-five days after the arrest, the offender presents any type of concealed handgun license to the law enforcement agency that employed the arresting officer, and the offender waives in writing the offender's right to a speedy trial on the charge of the violation that is provided in Ohio R.C. 2945.71.
  3. At the time of the commission of the offense, the offender was not knowingly in a place described in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126.

- C. If subsections (f)(2)A. and B. and (f)(5) of this section do not apply, the offender shall be punished under subsection (f)(1) or (6) of this section.
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, carrying concealed weapons in violation of subsection (b)(1) hereof is a misdemeanor of the first degree, and, in addition to any other penalty or sanction imposed for a violation of subsection (b)(1) hereof, the offender's concealed handgun license shall be suspended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2923.128(A)(2).  
If, at the time of the stop of the offender for a law enforcement purpose that was the basis of the violation, any law enforcement officer involved with the stop had actual knowledge that the offender has been issued a concealed handgun license, carrying concealed weapons in violation of division (b)(1) of this section is a minor misdemeanor, and the offender's concealed handgun license shall not be suspended pursuant to division (A)(2) of Ohio R.C. 2923.128.
- (4) Except as otherwise provided herein, carrying concealed weapons in violation of subsection (b)(2) or (b)(3) hereof is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender has previously been convicted or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 2923.12(B)(2) or (B)(4) or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, carrying concealed weapons is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law. In addition to any other penalty or sanction imposed for a violation of subsection (b)(2) or (b)(3) hereof, the offender's concealed handgun license shall be suspended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2923.128(A)(2).
- (5) If a person being arrested for a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section is an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States and is carrying a valid military identification card and documentation of successful completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements described in division (G)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2923.125, and if at the time of the violation the person was not knowingly in a place described in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126, the officer shall not arrest the person for a violation of that division. If the person is not able to promptly produce a valid military identification card and documentation of successful completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements described in division (G)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2923.125 and if the person is not in a place described in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126, the officer shall issue a citation and the offender shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The citation shall be automatically dismissed and the civil penalty shall not be assessed if both of the following apply:
- A. Within ten days after the issuance of the citation, the offender presents a valid military identification card and documentation of successful completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements described in division (G)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2923.125, which were both valid at the time of the issuance of the citation to the law enforcement agency that employs the citing officer.
- B. At the time of the citation, the offender was not knowingly in a place described in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126.

- (6) If a person being arrested for a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section is knowingly in a place described in division (B)(5) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126, and is not authorized to carry a handgun or have a handgun concealed on the person's person or concealed ready at hand under that division, the penalty shall be as follows:
- A. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the person produces a valid concealed handgun license within ten days after the arrest and has not previously been convicted or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section, the person is guilty of a minor misdemeanor;
  - B. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the person has previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree;
  - C. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the person has previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two violations of subsection (a)(2) of this section, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree;
  - D. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the person has previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of subsection (a)(2) of this section, or convicted of or pleaded guilty to any offense of violence, if the weapon involved is a firearm that is either loaded or for which the offender has ammunition ready at hand, or if the weapon involved is a dangerous ordnance, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(g) If a law enforcement officer stops a person to question the person regarding a possible violation of this section, for a traffic stop, or for any other law enforcement purpose, if the person surrenders a firearm to the officer, either voluntarily or pursuant to a request or demand of the officer, and if the officer does not charge the person with a violation of this section or arrest the person for any offense, the person is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm, and the firearm is not contraband, the officer shall return the firearm to the person at the termination of the stop. If a court orders a law enforcement officer to return a firearm to a person pursuant to the requirement set forth in this subsection, division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.163 applies. (ORC 2923.12)

#### **549.03 USING WEAPONS WHILE INTOXICATED.**

(a) No person, while under the influence of alcohol or any drug of abuse, shall carry or use any firearm or dangerous ordnance.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of using weapons while intoxicated, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2923.15)

#### **549.04 IMPROPERLY HANDLING FIREARMS IN A MOTOR VEHICLE.**

(a) No person shall knowingly transport or have a firearm in a motor vehicle, unless the person may lawfully possess that firearm under applicable law of this state or the United States, the firearm is unloaded, and the firearm is carried in one of the following ways:

- (1) In a closed package, box or case;
- (2) In a compartment which can be reached only by leaving the vehicle;
- (3) In plain sight and secured in a rack or holder made for the purpose;



- (4) If the firearm is at least twenty-four inches in overall length as measured from the muzzle to the part of the stock furthest from the muzzle and if the barrel is at least eighteen inches in length, either in plain sight with the action open or the weapon stripped, or, if the firearm is of a type on which the action will not stay open or which cannot easily be stripped, in plain sight.

(b) No person who has been issued a concealed handgun license, or who is an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States and is carrying a valid military identification card and documentation of successful completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements described in division (G)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2923.125, who is the driver or an occupant of a motor vehicle that is stopped as a result of a traffic stop or a stop for another law enforcement purpose or is the driver or an occupant of a commercial motor vehicle that is stopped by an employee of the motor carrier enforcement unit for the purposes defined in Ohio R.C. 5503.34, and who is transporting or has a loaded handgun in the motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle in any manner, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Fail to promptly inform any law enforcement officer who approaches the vehicle while stopped that the person has been issued a concealed handgun license or is authorized to carry a concealed handgun as an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States and that the person then possesses or has a loaded handgun in the motor vehicle;
- (2) Fail to promptly inform the employee of the unit who approaches the vehicle while stopped that the person has been issued a concealed handgun license or is authorized to carry a concealed handgun as an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States and that the person then possesses or has a loaded handgun in the commercial motor vehicle.
- (3) Knowingly fail to remain in the motor vehicle while stopped, or knowingly fail to keep the person's hands in plain sight at any time after any law enforcement officer begins approaching the person while stopped and before the law enforcement officer leaves, unless the failure is pursuant to and in accordance with directions given by a law enforcement officer.
- (4) Knowingly disregard or fail to comply with any lawful order of any law enforcement officer given while the motor vehicle is stopped, including, but not limited to, a specific order to the person to keep the person's hands in plain sight.

- (c) (1) This section does not apply to any of the following:
  - A. An officer, agent or employee of this or any other state or the United States, or a law enforcement officer, when authorized to carry or have loaded or accessible firearms in motor vehicles and acting within the scope of the officer's, agent's or employee's duties;
  - B. Any person who is employed in this State, who is authorized to carry or have loaded or accessible firearms in motor vehicles, and who is subject to and in compliance with the requirements of Ohio R.C. 109.801, unless the appointing authority of the person has expressly specified that the exemption provided in subsection (c)(1)B. does not apply to the person.
- (2) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to a person who transports or possesses a handgun in a motor vehicle if, at the time of that transportation or possession, both of the following apply:

- A. The person transporting or possessing the handgun is either carrying a valid concealed handgun license or is an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States and is carrying a valid military identification card and documentation of successful completion of firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements described in division (G)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2923.125.
  - B. The person transporting or possessing the handgun is not knowingly in a place described in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.126.
- (3) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to a person if all of the following apply:
- A. The person possesses a valid electric-powered all-purpose vehicle permit issued under Ohio R.C. 1533.103 by the Chief of the Division of Wildlife.
  - B. The person is on or in an electric-powered all-purpose vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 1531.01 or a motor vehicle during the open hunting season for a wild quadruped or game bird.
  - C. The person is on or in an electric-powered all-purpose vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 1531.01 or a motor vehicle that is parked on a road that is owned or administered by the Division of Wildlife, provided that the road is identified by an electric-powered all-purpose vehicle sign.
- (d) (1) The affirmative defenses authorized in Section 549.02(d)(1) and (2) are affirmative defenses to a charge under subsection (a) that involves a firearm other than a handgun.
- (2) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under subsection (a) of improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle that the actor transported or had the firearm in the motor vehicle for any lawful purpose and while the motor vehicle was on the actor's own property, provided that the affirmative defense is not available unless the person, immediately prior to arriving at the actor's own property, did not transport or possess the firearm in a motor vehicle in a manner prohibited by subsection (a) while the motor vehicle was being operated on a street, highway, or other public or private property used by the public for vehicular traffic.
- (e) (1) No person who is charged with a violation of subsection (a) shall be required to obtain a concealed handgun license as a condition for the dismissal of the charge.
- (2) If a person is convicted of, was convicted of, pleads guilty to, or has pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (b) of this section as it existed prior to September 30, 2011, and if the conduct that was the basis of the violation no longer would be a violation of subsection (b) of this section on or after September 30, 2011, the person may file an application under Ohio R.C. 2953.37 requesting the expungement of the record of conviction. If a person is convicted of, was convicted of, pleads guilty to, or has pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (a) of this section as the subsection existed prior to September 30, 2011, and if the conduct that was the basis of the violation no longer would be a violation of subsection (a) of this section on or after September 30, 2011, due to the application of subsection (b)(4) of this section as it exists on and after September 30, 2011, the person may file an application under Ohio R.C. 2953.37 requesting the expungement of the record of conviction.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle. Violation of subsection (a) of this section is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a violation of subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, and, in addition to any other penalty or sanction imposed for the violation, the offender's concealed handgun license shall be suspended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2923.128(A)(2). If at the time of the stop of the offender for a traffic stop, for another law enforcement purpose, or for a purpose defined in Ohio R.C. 5503.34 that was the basis of the violation any law enforcement officer involved with the stop or the employee of the motor carrier enforcement unit who made the stop had actual knowledge of the offender's status as a licensee, a violation of subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section is a minor misdemeanor, and the offender's concealed handgun license shall not be suspended pursuant to division (A)(2) of Ohio R.C. 2923.128. A violation of subsection (b)(3) or (4) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree or, if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (b)(3) or (4) of this section, a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. In addition to any other penalty or sanction imposed for a misdemeanor violation of subsection (b)(3) or (4) of this section, the offender's concealed handgun license shall be suspended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2923.128(A)(2).

(g) If a law enforcement officer stops a motor vehicle for a traffic stop or any other purpose, if any person in the motor vehicle surrenders a firearm to the officer, either voluntarily or pursuant to a request or demand of the officer, and if the officer does not charge the person with a violation of this section or arrest the person for any offense, the person is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm, and the firearm is not contraband, the officer shall return the firearm to the person at the termination of the stop. If a court orders a law enforcement officer to return a firearm to a person pursuant to the requirement set forth in this subsection, division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2923.163 applies.

(h) As used in this section:

- (1) "Motor vehicle", "street" and "highway" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.
- (2) A. "Unloaded" means:
  1. With respect to a firearm other than a firearm described in subsection (h)(2)B. of this section, that no ammunition is in the firearm in question, no magazine or speed loader containing ammunition is inserted into the firearm in question and one of the following applies:
    - a. There is no ammunition in a magazine or speed loader that is in the vehicle in question and that may be used with the firearm in question.
    - b. Any magazine or speed loader that contains ammunition and that may be used with the firearm in question is stored in a compartment within the vehicle in question that cannot be accessed without leaving the vehicle or is stored in a container that provides complete and separate enclosure.
  2. For the purposes of subsection (h)(2)A.1.b. of this section, a "container that provides complete and separate enclosure" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- a. A package, box or case with multiple compartments, as long as the loaded magazine or speed loader and the firearm in question either are in separate compartments within the package, box, or case, or, if they are in the same compartment, the magazine or speed loader is contained within a separate enclosure in that compartment that does not contain the firearm and that closes using a snap, button, buckle, zipper, hook and loop closing mechanism, or other fastener that must be opened to access the contents or the firearm is contained within a separate enclosure of that nature in that compartment that does not contain the magazine or speed loader;
  - b. A pocket or other enclosure on the person of the person in question that closes using a snap, button, buckle, zipper, hook and loop closing mechanism, or other fastener that must be opened to access the contents.
3. For the purposes of subsection (h)(2)A. of this section, ammunition held in stripper-clips or in en-bloc clips is not considered ammunition that is loaded into a magazine or speed loader.
- B. “Unloaded” means, with respect to a firearm employing a percussion cap, flintlock, or other obsolete ignition system, when the weapon is uncapped or when the priming charge is removed from the pan.
- (3) “Commercial motor vehicle” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4506.25(A).
- (4) “Motor carrier enforcement unit” means the motor carrier enforcement unit in the Department of Public Safety, Division of State Highway Patrol, that is created by Ohio R.C. 5503.34.

(i) Subsection (h)(2) of this section does not affect the authority of a person who is carrying a valid concealed handgun license to have one or more magazines or speed loaders containing ammunition anywhere in a vehicle, without being transported as described in that subsection, as long as no ammunition is in a firearm, other than a handgun, in the vehicle other than as permitted under any other provision of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2923. A person who is carrying a valid concealed handgun license may have one or more magazines or speed loaders containing ammunition anywhere in a vehicle without further restriction, as long as no ammunition is in a firearm, other than a handgun, in the vehicle other than as permitted under any provision of this chapter or Ohio R.C. Chapter 2923. (ORC 2923.16)

#### **549.05 FAILURE TO SECURE DANGEROUS ORDNANCE.**

(a) No person, in acquiring, possessing, carrying or using any dangerous ordnance shall negligently fail to take proper precautions:

- (1) To secure the dangerous ordnance against theft, or against its acquisition or use by any unauthorized or incompetent person;
- (2) To insure the safety of persons and property.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of failure to secure dangerous ordnance, a misdemeanor of the second degree. (ORC 2923.19)

#### **549.06 UNLAWFUL TRANSACTIONS IN WEAPONS.**

(a) No person shall:

- (1) Manufacture, possess for sale, sell or furnish to any person other than a law enforcement agency for authorized use in police work, any brass knuckles, cestus, billy, blackjack, sandbag, switchblade knife, springblade knife, gravity knife or similar weapon;
- (2) When transferring any dangerous ordnance to another, negligently fail to require the transferee to exhibit such identification, license or permit showing him to be authorized to acquire dangerous ordnance pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2923.17, or negligently fail to take a complete record of the transaction and forthwith forward a copy of such record to the sheriff of the county or safety director or police chief of the municipality where the transaction takes place;
- (3) Knowingly fail to report to law enforcement authorities forthwith the loss or theft of any firearm or dangerous ordnance in such person's possession or under his control.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of unlawful transactions in weapons. Violation of subsections (a)(1) or (2) hereof is a misdemeanor of the second degree. Violation of subsection (a)(3) hereof is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 2923.20)

#### **549.07 UNDERAGE PURCHASE OF FIREARM.**

(a) No person under eighteen years of age shall purchase or attempt to purchase a firearm.

(b) No person under twenty-one years of age shall purchase or attempt to purchase a handgun, provided that this subsection does not apply to the purchase or attempted purchase of a handgun by a person eighteen years of age or older and under twenty-one years of age if either of the following apply:

- (1) The person is a law enforcement officer who is properly appointed or employed as a law enforcement officer and has received firearms training approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Council or equivalent firearms training.
- (2) The person is an active or reserve member of the armed services of the United States or the Ohio national guard, or was honorably discharged from military service in the active or reserve armed services of the United States or the Ohio national guard, and the person has received firearms training from the armed services or the national guard or equivalent firearms training.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of underage purchase of a firearm, a delinquent act that would be a felony of the fourth degree if it could be committed by an adult. Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of underage purchase of a handgun, a misdemeanor of the second degree. (ORC 2923.211)

#### **549.08 DISCHARGING WEAPONS; EXCEPTIONS.**

(a) No person shall fire any cross bow, bow and arrow, cannon, gun or other firearm within the City except by permission of the Mayor granted for special occasions and except in proper position for firing salutes, or by command of a proper military officer in the performance of official duties. No person shall hunt on any public property at any time or on any private property without written permission of the owner of such property.

(b) However, nothing contained in subsection (a) hereof, shall limit or prohibit the following lawful activities:

- (1) The discharge of a firearm by a police officer.

- (2) A land owner from engaging in hunting on his own land, provided he has obtained a special permit from the City Manager.
- (3) A land owner from granting another permission to hunt on his own land, provided the land owner grants such permission in writing and the designated hunter obtains a special permit from the City Manager.
- (4) A turkey shoot, provided the responsible entity obtains written permission from the land owner, adequate liability insurance and a special permit from the City Manager.
- (5) The use of such items in any bona fide ranges or sports clubs for hunting, within the City.  
(Ord. 1106-95. Passed 2-23-95.)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.  
(Ord. 1547-04. Passed 8-26-04.)

**549.09 UNLAWFUL USE OF AIR GUNS.**

(a) No person shall shoot, force or throw by means of an air gun or other arm or implement, a lead, iron or other hard substance upon a street, alley, lane or other public place.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**549.10 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN WEAPONS PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall possess any weapon known or designated as brass knuckles, billy, sling shot, sandbag, blackjack or other weapon of similar character, or any knife fitted with a mechanical device for automatic release of the blade, opening the knife and locking the knife in the open position, commonly known as a switch or automatic spring knife.

(b) This section does not apply to any such weapons designated for use by officers of the law.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

**549.11 USE OF CROSS BOWS, BOW AND ARROWS PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall discharge any bow and arrow, not designed or intended as a child's toy, or a cross bow within the corporate limits of the City. A child's toy shall be any bow that takes less than eight (8) pounds of pull force for normal operation of the bow, and the arrows shall have rubber or other soft tips for safety.

(b) This section shall not apply to the use of such items in any bona fide ranges or sportsman clubs in the City.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.  
(Ord. 1093-94. Passed 11-10-94.)

**549.12 STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES; BLASTING PERMIT REQUIRED.**

(a) No person shall store at any time within the City limits a quantity of gunpowder or other similar explosive weighing in excess of 100 pounds.

(b) No person shall cause a blast to occur within the City without first making application in writing, setting forth the exact nature of the intended operation, and receiving a permit to blast from the City Manager. The Manager, before granting such permit, may require the applicant to provide a bond to indemnify the City and all other persons against injury or damages which might result from the proposed blasting.

- (c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

**549.13 POSSESSING REPLICIA FIREARM IN SCHOOL.**

(a) No person shall knowingly possess an object in a school safety zone if both of the following apply:

- (1) The object is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired.
- (2) The person indicates that the person possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or the person knowingly displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm.

(b) Subsection (a) hereof does not apply to premises upon which home schooling is conducted. Subsection (a) hereof also does not apply to a school administrator, teacher, or employee who possesses an object that is indistinguishable from a firearm for legitimate school purposes during the course of employment, a student who uses an object that is indistinguishable from a firearm under the direction of a school administrator, teacher, or employee, or any other person who with the express prior approval of a school administrator possesses an object that is indistinguishable from a firearm for a legitimate purpose, including the use of the object in a ceremonial activity, a play, reenactment, or other dramatic presentation, or a ROTC activity or another similar use of the object.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of illegal possession of an object indistinguishable from a firearm in a school safety zone. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, illegal possession of an object indistinguishable from a firearm in a school safety zone is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of Ohio R.C. 2923.122, illegal possession of an object indistinguishable from a firearm in a school safety zone is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

- (d) (1) In addition to any other penalty imposed upon a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section and subject to subsection (d)(2) of this section, if the offender has not attained nineteen years of age, regardless of whether the offender is attending or is enrolled in a school operated by a board of education or for which the State Board of Education prescribes minimum standards under Ohio R.C. 3301.07, the court shall impose upon the offender a class four suspension of the offender's probationary driver's license, restricted license, driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or probationary commercial driver's license that then is in effect from the range specified in division (A)(4) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02 and shall deny the offender the issuance of any permit or license of that type during the period of the suspension.
- If the offender is not a resident of this State, the court shall impose a class four suspension of the nonresident operating privilege of the offender from the range specified in division (A)(4) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02.
- (2) If the offender shows good cause why the court should not suspend one of the types of licenses, permits, or privileges specified in subsection (d)(1) of this section or deny the issuance of one of the temporary instruction permits specified in that subsection, the court in its discretion may choose not to impose the suspension, revocation, or denial required in that subsection, but the court, in its discretion, instead may require the offender to perform community service for a number of hours determined by the court.

(e) As used in this section, “object that is indistinguishable from a firearm” means an object made, constructed, or altered so that, to a reasonable person without specialized training in firearms, the object appears to be a firearm.  
(ORC 2923.122)

**549.14 USE OF REVOKED OR SUSPENDED CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSE.**

(a) No person, except in the performance of official duties, shall possess a license to carry a concealed handgun that was issued and that has been revoked or suspended pursuant to Section 2923.128 of the Ohio Revised Code.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of possessing a revoked or suspended concealed handgun license, a misdemeanor of the third degree. (Ord. 1545-04. Passed 9-9-04.)

**549.15 DEFACING IDENTIFICATION MARKS OF A FIREARM;  
POSSESSING A DEFACED FIREARM.**

(a) No person shall do either of the following:

- (1) Change, alter, remove, or obliterate the name of the manufacturer, model, manufacturer’s serial number, or other mark or identification on a firearm.
- (2) Possess a firearm knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the name of the manufacturer, model, manufacturer’s serial number, or other mark of identification on the firearm has been changed, altered, removed, or obliterated.

(b) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a)(1) of this section is guilty of defacing identification marks of a firearm. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, defacing identification marks of a firearm is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section, defacing identification marks of a firearm is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

- (2) Whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of possessing a defaced firearm. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, possessing a defaced firearm is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section, possessing a defaced firearm is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(ORC 2923.201)

**549.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)





**CHAPTER 553**  
**Railroads**

<b>553.01</b> Obstructing streets by railroad companies. <b>553.011</b> Obstructing streets by abandoning the locomotive. <b>553.02</b> Climbing upon railroad cars. <b>553.03</b> Duties of locomotive engineer.	<b>553.04</b> View obstructions at crossing. <b>553.05</b> Running switches. <b>553.06</b> Railroad train speed. <b>553.07</b> Railroad vandalism. <b>553.08</b> Grade crossing device vandalism. <b>553.99</b> Penalty.
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Lighting railroads - see Ohio R.C. 723.33 et seq.  
 Power to regulate train speed - see Ohio R.C. 723.48  
 Vehicular homicide - see GEN. OFF. 537.02  
 Criminal mischief - see GEN. OFF. 541.04

**553.01 OBSTRUCTING STREETS BY RAILROAD COMPANIES.**

- (a) (1) No railroad company shall obstruct or permit or cause to be obstructed a public street, road or highway by permitting a railroad car, locomotive or other obstruction to remain upon or across it for longer than five minutes to the hindrance or inconvenience of travelers or a person passing along or upon such street, road or highway.
- (2) At the end of each five minute period of obstruction of a public street, road or highway, each railroad company shall cause such railroad car, locomotive or other obstruction to be removed for sufficient time, not less than three minutes, to allow the passage of persons and vehicles waiting to cross.
- (3) This section does not apply to obstruction of a public street, road or highway by a continuously moving through train or caused by circumstances wholly beyond the control of the railroad company, but does apply to other obstructions, including without limitation those caused by stopped trains and trains engaged in switching, loading or unloading operations.
- (4) If a railroad car, locomotive, or other obstruction is obstructing a public street, road, or highway in violation of subsection (a)(1) hereof and the violation occurs in the unincorporated area of one or more counties, or in one or more municipal corporations, the officers and employees of each affected county or municipal corporation may charge the railroad company with only one violation of the law arising from the same facts and circumstances and the same act.

(5) Upon the filing of an affidavit or complaint for violation of this subsection (a)(1) hereof, summons shall be issued to the railroad company pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2935.10(B), which summons shall be served on the regular ticket or freight agent of the company in the county where the offense occurred. (ORC 5589.21)

(b) For purposes of this section, "railroad company" includes the officers, employees and agents of such company.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

**553.011 OBSTRUCTING STREETS BY ABANDONING THE LOCOMOTIVE.**

(a) No railroad company shall obstruct, or permit or cause to be obstructed, a public street, road, or highway, by permitting any part of a train whose crew has abandoned the locomotive to remain across it for longer than five minutes to the hindrance or inconvenience of travelers or a person passing along or upon the street, road, or highway, unless the safety of the train crew requires them to abandon the locomotive.

(b) Upon the filing of an affidavit or complaint for violation of this section, summons shall be issued to the railroad company pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2935.10(B), which summons shall be served on the regular ticket or freight agent of the company in the county where the offense occurred. (ORC 5589.211)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be fined five thousand dollars (\$5,000). (ORC 5589.99)

**553.02 CLIMBING UPON RAILROAD CARS.**

(a) No person shall climb, jump, step or stand upon or cling or attach himself to a locomotive, engine or car upon the track of a railroad, unless in compliance with law or by permission under the rules of the corporation managing such railroad.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4999.02)

**553.03 DUTIES OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER.**

(a) No person in charge of a locomotive shall fail to bring the locomotive to a full stop at least 200 feet before arriving at a crossing with another track, or proceed through the crossing before signaled to do so or before the way is clear.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If violation of this misdemeanor causes physical harm to any person, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4999.04)

**553.04 VIEW OBSTRUCTIONS AT CROSSING.**

(a) No person having the supervision or control of any railroad train, cars, locomotives or other rolling stock and equipment shall permit such property to stand or remain either on the streets or on the right of way or property of the railway for a period longer than five minutes in duration, so as to prevent or hamper a full view of the tracks for at least 500 feet in both directions from the intersection of the public streets and the railway, by any person in lawful use of the public streets, unless an electric signalling device is in operation at the time to warn of approaching trains or other rolling stock, or unless a watchman is on duty at the time.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**553.05 RUNNING SWITCHES.**

(a) No person having the supervision or control of any railroad train, cars, engine or locomotive, or any person assisting such person, shall cause or allow to be made with such train, cars, locomotives or engine, across any streets within the City any switch or connection, commonly called a "running switch", when such crossing is not protected by flashing signalling devices or a member of a train crew or watchman.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**553.06 RAILROAD TRAIN SPEED.**

(a) No railroad company or any agent or employee thereof, or any other person, firm or corporation, shall operate, run or move any locomotive, engine, car, or train upon or along any railroad track within the City at a rate of speed greater than forty-five miles per hour.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

**553.07 RAILROAD VANDALISM.**

(a) No person shall knowingly, and by any means, drop or throw any object at, onto, or in the path of, any railroad rail, railroad track, locomotive, engine, railroad car, or other vehicle of a railroad company while such vehicle is on a railroad track.

(b) No person, without privilege to do so, shall climb upon or into any locomotive, engine, railroad car, or other vehicle of a railroad company when it is on a railroad track.

(c) No person, without privilege to do so, shall disrupt, delay, or prevent the operation of any train or other vehicle of a railroad company while such vehicle is on a railroad track.

(d) No person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly enter or remain on the land or premises of a railroad company.

(e) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of railroad vandalism. Whoever violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of criminal trespass on a locomotive, engine, railroad car or other railroad vehicle. Whoever violates subsection (c) of this section is guilty of interference with the operation of a train.

Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, railroad vandalism; criminal trespass on a locomotive, engine, railroad car, or other railroad vehicle; and interference with the operation of a train each is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the violation of subsection (a), (b) or (c) of this section causes serious physical harm to property, creates a substantial risk of physical harm to any person, causes physical harm to any person, or serious physical harm to any person, the violation is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(f) Whoever violates subsection (d) of this section is guilty of criminal trespass on the land or premises of a railroad company, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.  
(ORC 2909.10)

**553.08 GRADE CROSSING DEVICE VANDALISM.**

(a) No person shall knowingly deface, damage, obstruct, remove or otherwise impair the operation of any railroad grade crossing warning signal or other protective device, including any gate, bell, light, crossbuck, stop sign, yield sign, advance warning sign, or advance pavement marking.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of railroad grade crossing device vandalism. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, railroad grade crossing device vandalism is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the violation of this section causes serious physical harm to property, creates a substantial risk of physical harm to any person, causes physical harm to any person, or causes serious physical harm to any person, railroad grade crossing device vandalism is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.  
(ORC 2909.101)

**553.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

**CHAPTER 557**  
**Weeds, Trees and Shrubbery**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Chapter 557 was repealed by Ordinance 1587-05, passed July 14, 2005. See Chapter 1412 of the Property Maintenance Code.