



🚗 KNOW BEFORE THEY GO: The Parent's Guide to E-Bikes & Motorized Rides

Hey parents! 🙌 We love seeing kids outside, but we're seeing a surge in motorized vehicles where they don't belong. Before you let your child head out on that new e-bike or dirt bike, use this quick guide to make sure their outdoor adventure is safe and legal.

📍 STEP 1: WHERE are they riding?

- Private Property: Allowed (with owner permission). No permission = Trespassing. This includes vacant lots or lots under construction.
- Parks, Trails, & Green Spaces: Look for "No Motorized Vehicles" signs. If it's there, it's a Violation. 🚫 Destruction of parks, grass, and vegetation could be criminal mischief.
- Public Streets: If it's a street, keep reading!

🚲 STEP 2: WHAT are they riding?

Not all "bikes" are created equal in the eyes of the law.

- TRUE E-BIKES (Class 1, 2, or 3): Must have functional pedals for human propulsion and a motor under ~750W.
 - o ✅ Legal: Allowed in bike lanes and public streets. If utilizing the sidewalk, yield to pedestrians and ride at slow speeds.
 - o ⚠️ Check: Helmets are an important safety consideration! Although it is not against the law to ride a bike without a helmet, we know helmets save lives and prevent injuries on bicycles!
- MOPEDS: Must have a motor less than 50cc and functional pedals for human propulsion. If it's throttle-only or can travel over 30mph, it's likely considered a motorcycle (motorcycles require a class M permit or endorsement).
 - o 📄 Requirements: Need a VIN, License Plate, Registration, and Insurance. No riding on the sidewalk.
 - o 🗡️ License: Does your child have a valid driver's license? If not, they can't ride this on the street.
- DIRT BIKES: Knobby tires? No blinkers? No plate? No functional Pedals? Over 50 ccs or 2238 watts if electric?
 - o ❌ Illegal: These are not street legal. They cannot be ridden on roads or in city parks. This vehicle is not appropriate for a child! They should not be on the sidewalk.

🚓 THE "QUICK CHECK" FOR PARENTS

Before they leave the driveway, ask yourself:

1. Does it need a license plate? If it is a moped or capable of exceeding 30 miles per hour, it is likely it will need a license plate. It is also possible it will not be legal to obtain licensing for operation on public roadways after inspection by the DMV, as they have a list of parameters to meet before licensing such a vehicle.
2. Do they have a driver's license? Required for mopeds and motorcycles.
3. Is there a helmet on their head? Safety first, law second!
4. Are they riding safely? Reckless riding or fleeing from an officer leads to a citation, not just a warning.

📖 Quick Review

- E-Bikes: Usually okay but watch the speed/wattage parameters, teach rules of the road, and push helmet safety. Don't forget, they MUST have functional pedals to be an e-bike!
- Gas or Electric Throttles: Usually treated like mopeds or motorcycles-they need licensing paperwork and a driver's license! Many of these are marketed as toys or e-bikes. Do your homework before purchasing.
- Dirt Bikes or minibikes: Keep them on private property or on private tracks. They are not for the street or sidewalk, even if marketed as an electric "toy."

Our Goal: Let's keep the neighborhoods safe with the kids and parents out of the courtroom! Parents allowing their child to participate in illegal activities or access to illegal motorized vehicles may be subject to citations. Let's work together to keep everyone safe, healthy, and happy to round out the school year heading into summer.