

**ORV ORDINANCE**  
**State of Michigan – County of Huron**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2014-01**

An ordinance adopted for the purpose of authorizing and regulating the operation of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) on roads in Huron County, for the purpose of providing penalties for the violation thereof, and for the distribution of public funds resulting from those penalties pursuant to 2008 PA 240, MCL 324.81131.

THE COUNTY OF HURON ORDAINS:

**Sec. 1** As used in this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) “County” means the County of Huron.
- b) “Driver license” means an operator’s or chauffeur’s license or permit issued to an individual by the secretary of state under chapter III of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.301 to 257.329, for that individual to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.
- c) “Operate” means to ride in or on, and be in actual physical control of the operation of an ORV.
- d) “Operator” means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of the operation of an ORV.
- e) “ORV” means a motor-driven, off- road recreation vehicle capable of cross-country travel without benefit of a road or trail, on or immediately over land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. ORV or vehicle includes, but is not limited to, a multitrack or multiwheel drive vehicle, an ATV, a motorcycle or related 2-wheel, 3-wheel, or 4-wheel vehicle, an amphibious machine, a ground effect air cushion vehicle, or other means of transportation deriving motive power from a source other than muscle or wind. ORV or vehicle does not include a registered snowmobile, a farm vehicle being used for farming, a vehicle used for military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement purposes, a vehicle owned and operated by a utility company or an oil or gas company when performing maintenance on its facilities or on property over which it has an easement, a construction or logging vehicle used in performance of its common function, or a registered aircraft.
- f) “Road” means a county primary road or county local road as described in section 5 of 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.655.
- g) “Road Commission” means the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Huron.
- h) “Safety certificate” means a certificate issued pursuant to 1994 PA 451 as amended, MCL 324.81129, or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada.

- i) "State Highway" means M-19, M-25, M-53, and M-142.
- j) "Township" means an individual township within the County of Huron.
- k) "Township Board" means a board of trustees of any township within the County of Huron.
- l) "Visual supervision" means the direct observation of the operator with the unaided or normally corrected eye, where the observer is able to come to the immediate aid of the operator.

**Sec. 2** An ORV may be operated on the far right of the maintained portion of a county road within the county; however, an ORV may **not** be operated on the following:

- a) All city streets which are not county roads or state highways; and
- b) All village streets which are not county roads or state highways.

**Sec. 3** A person may operate an ORV with the flow of traffic on a state highway as follows:

- a) on the right shoulder of the highway;
- b) if there is not a right shoulder or the right shoulder is not of adequate width, on the right unmaintained portion of the highway;
- c) on the far right of the right traffic lane of the highway, if necessary to cross a bridge or culvert and if the operator brings the ORV to a complete stop before entering and yields the right-of-way to an approaching vehicle on that traffic lane.

**Sec. 4** The legislative body of a township, village, or city within the county may adopt an ordinance to close a county road located in the township or municipality to the operation of ORVs otherwise authorized pursuant to MCL 324.81131(2), and this ordinance.

**Sec. 5** The county road commission may close no more than 30% of the total linear miles of roads in the county to protect the environment or if the operation of ORVs pose a particular and demonstrable threat to public safety.

**Sec. 6** Except as set forth herein or otherwise provided by law, an ORV meeting all of the following conditions may be operated on a road in the county:

- a) at a speed of no more than 25 miles per hour or a lower posted ORV speed limit.
- b) by a person not less than 14 years of age.
- c) with the flow of traffic on the far right of the maintained portion of the road.
- d) in a manner which does not interfere with traffic on the road.
- e) traveling single file except when overtaking and passing another ORV.

- f) while displaying a lighted headlight and lighted taillight at all hours beginning January 1, 2010.
- g) while the operator and each passenger is wearing a crash helmet and protective eyewear approved by the United States department of transportation unless the vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds standards for a crash helmet and the operator and each passenger is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt.
- h) unless equipped with a braking system that may be operated by hand or foot, capable of producing deceleration at 14 feet per second on level ground at a speed of 20 miles per hour; a brake light, brighter than the taillight, visible when the brake is activated to the rear of the vehicle when the vehicle is operated during the hours of ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise; and a throttle so designed that when the pressure used to advance the throttle is removed, the engine speed will immediately and automatically return to idle.
- i) while the ORV is equipped with a spark arrester type United States forest service approved muffler in good working order and in constant operation.
- j) pursuant to noise emission standards defined by law.

**Sec. 7** A person less than 18 years of age shall not operate an ORV on a road in the county unless the person is in possession of a valid driver license or is under the direct visual supervision of a parent or guardian and the person has in his or her immediate possession a Michigan issued ORV safety certificate or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada.

**Sec. 8** Unless a person possesses a valid drivers license, a person shall not operate an ORV on a road or street in the county if the ORV is registered as a motor vehicle and is either more than 65 inches wide or has three wheels.

**Sec. 9** Any person who violates this ordinance is guilty of a municipal civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$500.00.

**Sec. 10** A court shall order a person who causes damage to the environment, a road, or other property as a result of the operation of an ORV to pay full restitution for that damage above and beyond the penalties paid for civil fines.

**Sec. 11** The County Treasurer shall deposit all fines and damages collected under this ordinance into a fund to be designated as the ORV Fund. The County of Board of Commissioners shall appropriate revenue in the ORV Fund as follows:

- a) Fifty percent to the County Road Commission for repairing damage to roads and the environment that may have been caused by ORVs, and for posting sign indicating ORV speed limits, or indicating whether roads are open or closed to the operation of ORVs.
- b) Fifty percent to the County Sheriff for ORV enforcement and training.

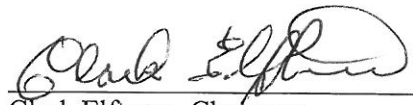
**Sec. 12** This ordinance shall take effect after notice of the adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County. The Clerk of the County Board of Commissioners shall engross this ordinance

and it shall be signed by the Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners and certified by the Clerk of County Board of Commissioners.

- a) Date of Adoption by County Board of Commissioners: June 24, 2014
- b) Date of Publication: June 28, 2014
- c) Date Ordinance shall take effect: July 1, 2014

**Sec. 13** Should a portion of this ordinance be found invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

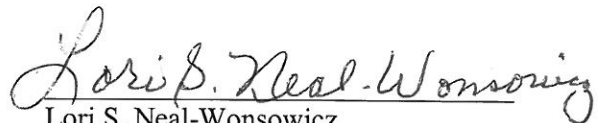
This Ordinance is adopted by action of the Huron County Board of Commissioners this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.



Clark Elftman, Chairman  
Huron County Board of Commissioners

CERTIFICATION

I, Lori S. Neal-Wonsowicz, Clerk of the County of Huron, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Ordinance duly adopted by the Huron County Board of Commissioners on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.



Lori S. Neal-Wonsowicz  
Huron County Clerk