

WHY YOU SHOULD KNOW







Children and young teenagers have likely never driven a vehicle before and are not familiar with traffic laws. They are often unaware of the traffic around them as well as traffic hazards that exist (e.g. blind spots, other vehicles, pedestrians, lighting conditions).

We have all seen it - a young child riding a moped or motorized scooter down the street or sidewalk, whizzing by, not paying attention to the traffic on the roads and not obeying stop signs or traffic lights.

It's just a matter of time before someone gets hurt. Florida has several traffic laws in place for this very reason.

GENERAL GUIDE TO STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS

DL = DRIVER'S LICENSE RD = ROADWAY		REG = REGISTRATION SIDE = SIDEWALK/BIKE PATH			
TYPE		DL	REG	RD	SIDE
	Motorized Scooter/Go-Ped (Gas/Elec.)	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Pocket Bike	Yes	Yes*	No	No
	Moped (Gas/Elec.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pedal Power
	Motorized Bicycle (Elec.)	No	No	Yes	Up to 10mph

*According to Florida law pocket bikes are considered motor vehicles. However, because pocket bikes are not manufactured to meet the required federal Motor Vehicle Safety Act, they cannot be registered for operation on public roadways, even if the operator has a valid driver's license. Pocket bikes may not be operated on sidewalks unless authorized by ordinance.

For more information contact
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Traffic Section:

407-836-0800



**ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Emergency

9-1-1

Non-Emergency:

407-836-HELP (4357)

www.ocso.com



**A Guide to
Mopeds, Gopeds,
Pocket Bikes &
Motorized Scooters**

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS, GO- PEDS, AND POCKET BIKES



Motorized scooters/gopeds are small two or three-wheel vehicles that a person may stand or sit upon to operate or ride. Some have electric motors, and some have gas engines. The steering is managed by use of a T shaped handlebar. Motorized scooters have the same rights and duties applicable to the rider of a bicycle. Wearing a helmet is required for driver and passengers under age 16. Electric scooters can be operated on sidewalks but cannot exceed 10mph.

Pocket bikes are miniature motorcycles with an electric motor or a 50 cc or less gas engines that have automatic transmissions. Pocket bikes cannot be legally operated on public roadways, sidewalks, or bicycle paths unless authorized by ordinance.

MOPEDS AND MOTORIZED BIKES



Mopeds have 50 cc or less engines with two wheels and can travel a maximum speed of 30 miles per hour. Motorized bicycles have electric helper motors and can travel a maximum of 20 miles per hour. Both mopeds and motorized bicycles have pedals and may be operated solely by human power.

A driver must have at least a Class E driver's license and tag registration to legally operate a moped. The operator of a motorized bicycle does not require a driver's license.

Persons 16 and older may operate a moped or a motorized bicycle on public roadways. Mopeds can be operated on sidewalks and bike paths only if operated solely by human power. Electric bicycles can be operated using the electric motor on sidewalks but cannot exceed 10mph. Persons under 16 may only operate mopeds on private property and must wear protective headgear securely fastened upon their heads.

WHERE CAN MY CHILD RIDE A POCKET BIKE?



Pocket bikes can only be ridden on private property with permission from the owner of the property (e.g., driveway, yard). A person may not ride pocket bikes on sidewalks, bike paths, or roadways.

WHY ARE BUSINESSES ALLOWED TO SELL POCKET BIKES if they are illegal to ride on the roadways and sidewalks?



It is not against the law to possess, use, or operate a pocket bike, as long as you are on private property. Therefore, it is not against the law for businesses to sell them. Additionally, Florida law requires the seller of pocket motorcycles to display at his or her place of business a notice that such vehicles are not legal to operate on public roads or operate on sidewalks unless authorized by local ordinance.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES should my child be stopped by a law enforcement officer while riding his motorized scooter, go-ped, pocket bike, moped, or motorized bicycle?



A person who operates or allows a juvenile to operate any motorized scooter, go-ped, pocket bike, moped, or motorized bicycle in violation of the law may be subject to the following:

- If caught operating a vehicle using engine power, or an electric scooter or bicycle in excess of 10mph, or a pocket bike, on a sidewalk, the operator may be issued a noncriminal traffic citation punishable as a moving violation for operating a motorized vehicle on a sidewalk. Florida Statute 316.1995. The operator is also eligible to receive a criminal citation for operating an unregistered motor vehicle. This is a criminal violation which requires a mandatory court date, and the operator is subject to arrest. Florida Statute 320.02.
- To operate a motor vehicle in the State of Florida, the operator must possess a valid driver's license. If the operator is caught operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, he or she is subject to a criminal citation, mandatory court appearance, and/or arrest. Florida Statute 322.03.

Parents who knowingly allow a juvenile who has no driver's license to operate a motor vehicle on public streets may be cited for a violation of Florida Statute 322.35, "Permitting an Unauthorized Minor to Drive." This is an arrestable misdemeanor.

Note: All criminal violations involve issuance of a Uniform Traffic Citation, mandatory court date, and/or arrest.