

# NORTHERN REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY

230 PEARCE MILL ROAD • WEXFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

15090-8511

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Dear Residents,

The Northern Regional Police Department is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of everyone in our community. Recently, we have seen a significant increase in the use of electric scooters, electric bicycles (e-bikes), and electric dirt bikes by juveniles throughout our municipalities. While these vehicles can provide recreation and transportation, they have also resulted in numerous safety concerns, complaints from residents, and violations of Pennsylvania law.

We have received reports of juveniles operating these vehicles at excessive speeds on public roadways, sidewalks, parks, and private property. Officers have also investigated incidents involving reckless operation, damage to private property, near-collisions with pedestrians and motorists, and riders traveling through neighborhoods without regard for traffic laws or the safety of others. Our greatest concern is simple: we do not want to notify a parent that their child has been seriously injured or killed in a preventable crash.

Many parents may not realize that not all electric-powered vehicles are legal to operate on public roads, sidewalks, or trails. In many cases, electric dirt bikes and high-powered electric scooters are considered motor vehicles under Pennsylvania law. Unless they are properly manufactured, titled, registered, insured, and equipped to meet Pennsylvania vehicle requirements, they are generally prohibited from being operated on public roadways. Likewise, operation on sidewalks, parks, and private property without permission may also violate state law or local ordinances.

[The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Title 75](#) contains several provisions that apply to these situations, including but not limited to:

§ 102 – Definitions, including the definitions of "motor vehicle," "motor-driven cycle," "electric pedal cycle," and other applicable vehicle classifications.

- § 1301 – Driving an unregistered vehicle.
- § 1311 – Operation following suspension or revocation of registration.
- § 1501 – Drivers required to be licensed.
- § 1786 – Required financial responsibility.
- § 4107 – Unlawful activities relating to equipment and inspection of vehicles.
- § 3501 et seq. – Pedal cycles, including provisions governing electric pedal cycles that meet Pennsylvania's statutory definition.
- § 6110 – Restrictions on driving on sidewalks.
- § 6308 – Investigation by police officers.

Additionally, many electric dirt bikes and similar off-road vehicles are not eligible for titling or registration for highway use because they were manufactured exclusively for off-road operation. Under 75 Pa.C.S. Chapter 11 (Certificate of Title and Security Interests), a vehicle required to be titled and operated on public highways must comply with Pennsylvania's titling requirements. Off-road motorcycles and electric dirt bikes that do not meet federal and state highway equipment standards cannot legally be titled and registered for use on public roads. As a result, operating these vehicles on public streets is unlawful regardless of the operator's age.

Parents should also be aware that they may be held financially responsible for property damage caused by their children, and unsafe operation can expose both juveniles and parents to civil liability in addition to criminal or traffic enforcement.

However, we also have a duty to protect the public. When dangerous behavior continues after education and warnings, or when a juvenile's actions create an immediate risk to themselves or others, officers will take appropriate enforcement action. Depending on the circumstances, this may include issuing citations, filing juvenile allegations, impounding vehicles when authorized by law, or pursuing other legal remedies available under Pennsylvania law.

**We ask parents to take an active role by:**

- Understanding whether your child's electric scooter, e-bike, or electric dirt bike is legal to operate on public roads.
- Supervising where and how these vehicles are being used.
- Requiring helmets and other appropriate safety equipment.
- Discussing safe and respectful riding practices with your children.
- Ensuring that private property is respected and that permission is obtained before riding on land owned by others.

The overwhelming majority of our young people are responsible and respectful. By working together, we can ensure they continue to enjoy recreational activities while keeping themselves and others safe.

The Northern Regional Police Department's goal is **NOT** to issue citations to young children or take a heavy-handed approach to enforcement. Our mission is to educate, build partnerships with families, and prevent serious injuries, tragedies, and unnecessary legal consequences. We appreciate the continued cooperation of our residents as we work together to maintain safe neighborhoods for everyone.

If you have questions regarding Pennsylvania's laws governing electric scooters, e-bikes, or electric dirt bikes, or if you are unsure whether a particular vehicle is legal for roadway use, please refer to the [NRPD Website](#) or at [PA Department of Transportation](#). We would much rather answer your questions today than respond to a preventable tragedy tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

The NRPD