

**CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HIRAM**  
**PART FIVE - GENERAL OFFENSES CODE**

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**CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HIRAM**  
**PART FIVE - GENERAL OFFENSES CODE**

**CHAPTER 501**  
**General Provisions and Penalty**

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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.

**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, 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 sentence 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	Maximum
<u>Misdemeanor</u>	<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**

<b>505.001</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>505.09</b>	<b>Barking or howling dogs.</b>
<b>505.01</b>	<b>Dogs and other animals running at large.</b>	<b>505.10</b>	<b>Animal bites; reports and quarantine.</b>
<b>505.02</b>	<b>Impounding and disposition; records.</b>	<b>505.11</b>	<b>Hunting prohibited.</b>
<b>505.03</b>	<b>Annual registration of dogs; tags required.</b>	<b>505.12</b>	<b>Coloring rabbits or baby poultry; sale or display of poultry.</b>
<b>505.04</b>	<b>Abandoning animals.</b>	<b>505.13</b>	<b>Dangerous wild animals and restricted snakes.</b>
<b>505.05</b>	<b>Killing or injuring animals.</b>	<b>505.14</b>	<b>Dangerous dogs.</b>
<b>505.06</b>	<b>Poisoning animals.</b>	<b>505.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>
<b>505.07</b>	<b>Cruelty to animals generally.</b>		
<b>505.071</b>	<b>Cruelty to companion animals.</b>		
<b>505.08</b>	<b>Nuisance conditions prohibited.</b>		

**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

**505.001 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter unless otherwise specifically provided herein:

- (a) (1) "Dangerous dog" means a dog that, without provocation, and subject to subsection (a)(2) hereof has done any of the following:
- A. Caused injury, other than killing or serious injury, to any person;
  - B. Killed another dog;
  - C. Been the subject of a third or subsequent violation of Section 505.01(c).
- (2) "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.
- (b) "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.
- (c) (1) Subject to subsection (c)(2) hereof, "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.

- (2) "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.
- (d) "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.
- (e) "Serious injury" means any of the following:
  - (1) Any physical harm that carries a substantial risk of death;
  - (2) Any physical harm that involves a permanent incapacity, whether partial or total, or a temporary, substantial incapacity;
  - (3) Any physical harm that involves a permanent disfigurement or a temporary, serious disfigurement;
  - (4) Any physical harm that involves acute pain of a duration that results in substantial suffering or any degree of prolonged or intractable pain.
- (f) (1) "Vicious dog" means a dog that, without provocation and subject to subsection (f)(2) hereof has killed or caused serious injury to any person.
  - (2) "Vicious dog" does not include either of the following:
    - A. 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;
    - B. 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.
- (g) "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. (ORC 955.11)

#### **505.01 DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE.**

(a) No person being the owner or having charge of cattle, horses, swine, sheep, geese, ducks, goats, 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.  
(ORC 951.02)

(b) 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.

(c) 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.  
(ORC 955.22)

(d) 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)

- (e) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 951.99)
- (2) A. Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor for a first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for each subsequent offense.
- B. In addition to the penalties prescribed in subsection (e)(2)A. hereof, if the offender is guilty of a violation of subsection (b) hereof, 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.
- (3) A. 1. Whoever violates subsection (c) hereof that involves a dog that is not a nuisance dog, dangerous dog or vicious dog is guilty of a minor misdemeanor for a first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for each subsequent offense.
2. In addition to the penalties prescribed above, if the offender is guilty of a violation of subsection (c) hereof, 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.
- B. 1. Whoever commits a violation of subsection (c) hereof, 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 subsection (c) hereof, 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 above, if a violation of subsection (c) hereof 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 obedience training, or to do both.
- C. Whoever commits a violation of subsection (c) hereof that involves a dangerous dog, 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 (E) of Ohio R.C. 955.22. 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. With respect to a violation of subsection (c) hereof 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 discretion of the Dog Warden, the dog shall be confined or restrained in accordance with division (D) of Ohio R.C. 955.22 or at the County Dog Pound at the owner's expense.

- D. 1. Whoever commits a violation of subsection (c) hereof that involves a vicious dog is guilty of one or the following:
- a. A felony, if the dog kills a person, and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. Additionally, the court shall order that the vicious dog be humanely destroyed by a licensed veterinarian, the County Dog Warden or the County Humane Society at the owner's expense.
  - b. A misdemeanor of the first degree if the dog causes 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;
2. If the court does not order the vicious dog to be destroyed under subsection (e)(3)D.1.b. hereof, the court shall issue an order that specifies that division (D) of Ohio R.C. 955.11 and divisions (D) to (I) of Ohio R.C. 955.22 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 Ohio R.C. 955.54 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 (E)(1) of Ohio R.C. 955.22 in an amount, exclusive of interest and costs, that equals or exceeds one hundred thousand dollars. Until the court makes a final determination and during the pendency of any appeal of a violation of subsection (c) hereof and at the discretion of the Dog Warden, the dog shall be confined or restrained in accordance with the provisions described in division (D) of Ohio R.C. 955.22 or at the County Dog Pound at the owner's expense.  
(ORC 955.99)

#### **505.02 IMPOUNDING AND DISPOSITION; RECORDS.**

(a) A police officer or animal warden may impound every animal or dog found in violation of Section 505.01. If the dog is not wearing a valid registration tag and the owner is not otherwise reasonably determined, notice shall be posted in the pound or animal shelter both describing the dog and place where seized and advising the unknown owner that unless the dog is redeemed within three days, it may thereafter be sold or destroyed according to law. If the dog is wearing a valid registration tag or the identity of the owner, keeper or harbinger is otherwise reasonably determined, notice shall be given by certified mail to such owner, keeper or harbinger that the dog has been impounded and unless redeemed within fourteen days of the date of notice, it may thereafter be sold or destroyed according to law. Any dog seized and impounded may be redeemed by its owner, keeper or harbinger at any time prior to the applicable redemption period upon payment of all lawful costs assessed against the animal and upon providing the dog with a valid registration tag if it has none.

(b) A record of all dogs impounded, the disposition of the same, the owner's name and address where known, and a statement of any costs assessed against the dog shall be kept by any poundkeeper.



**505.03 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)

**505.04 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)

**505.05 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) Except as otherwise provided herein, whoever violates this section 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)

**505.06 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)

**505.07 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)

#### **505.071 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)

**505.08 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.

**505.09 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.

**505.10 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 Health Commissioner within twenty-four hours. Whenever it is reported to the 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 harbinger, 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 harbinger. 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.

**505.11 HUNTING PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall hunt, kill or attempt to kill any animal or fowl by the use of firearms, bow and arrow, air rifle or any other means within the corporate limits of the Municipality.

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

**505.12 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.

**505.13 DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS AND RESTRICTED SNAKES.**

(a) For purposes of this section, "dangerous wild animal" and "restricted snake" have the same meanings as set forth in Ohio R.C. 935.01.

- (b) (1) Except for a restricted snake specified in Ohio R.C. 935.01(L)(1), no person shall sell or offer for sale at auction a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake.
- (2) Except for a microchip removed for purposes of a medical emergency by a veterinarian that is qualified to provide veterinary care to the dangerous wild animal, no person shall knowingly remove a microchip that is implanted in a dangerous wild animal as required in Ohio R.C. 935.04.
- (3) No person that possesses a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake shall fail to post and display any of the following:
- A. On each cage in which a dangerous wild animal is confined, signs warning the public that a dangerous wild animal is confined in the cage;
  - B. At each entrance to the property where a dangerous wild animal is confined, a sign warning the public that a dangerous wild animal is on the property;
  - C. On each container in which a restricted snake is confined, a sign warning the public that a restricted snake is in the container;
  - D. At the main entrance to each structure where a restricted snake is confined, a sign warning the public that a restricted snake is in the structure;
  - E. On a vehicle that is used to transport a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake, a sign warning that a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake, as applicable, is in the vehicle.

The signs shall comply with standards established in rules adopted by the State Director of Agriculture.

- (4) No person shall allow a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake to roam off the property where it is confined.
- (5) No person shall remove any teeth or claws from a dangerous wild animal or restricted snake, as applicable, unless determined to be medically necessary by a veterinarian. (ORC 935.18)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree on the first offense. On a second or subsequent offense, such person is guilty of a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law. (ORC 935.99)

**505.14 DANGEROUS DOGS.**

(a) 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 building, 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 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.
- (b) 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 Ohio R.C. 955.22(I), 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 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 County Auditor within ten days of the sale, transfer or death.  
(ORC 955.22)

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof 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 subsection (b) hereof. The court, in the alternative, may order the dangerous dog to be humanely destroyed by a licensed veterinarian, the Dog Warden or the humane society at the owner's expense.

- (d) (1) Whoever violates subsection (b)(2) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsections (b)(1), (3) or (4) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 955.99)

**505.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

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**CHAPTER 509**  
**Disorderly Conduct and Peace Disturbance**

<b>509.01</b>	<b>Riot.</b>	<b>509.05</b>	<b>Misconduct at an emergency.</b>
<b>509.011</b>	<b>Inciting to violence.</b>	<b>509.06</b>	<b>Inducing panic.</b>
<b>509.02</b>	<b>Failure to disperse.</b>	<b>509.07</b>	<b>Making false alarms.</b>
<b>509.03</b>	<b>Disorderly conduct; intoxication.</b>	<b>509.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>
<b>509.04</b>	<b>Disturbing a lawful meeting.</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)

**509.011 INCITING TO VIOLENCE.**

(a) No person shall knowingly engage in conduct designed to urge or incite another to commit any offense of violence, when either of the following apply:

- (1) The conduct takes place under circumstances that create a clear and present danger that any offense of violence will be committed;
- (2) The conduct proximately results in the commission of any offense of violence.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of inciting to violence. If the offense of violence that the other person is being urged or incited to commit is a misdemeanor, inciting to violence is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 2917.01)

**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 that 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 that serves no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender;
- (5) Creating a condition that is physically offensive to persons or that presents a risk of physical harm to persons or property, by any act that 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 the offender were not intoxicated, should know is likely to have that effect on others;
  - (2) Engage in conduct or create a condition that presents a risk of physical harm to the offender 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)

**509.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

**CHAPTER 513**  
**Drug Abuse Control**

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| 513.01 Definitions.  | 513.10 Hypodermic possession, display and dispensing.                  |
| 513.02 Gift of marihuana.                                  | 513.11 Harmful intoxicants; possessing nitrous oxide in motor vehicle. |
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**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, 2925.24, 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) No person shall alter, deface or remove any label affixed by a manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacist or licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs who dispenses a controlled substance in a package or container, as long as any of the original contents remain, except when lawfully filling a prescription. (ORC 3719.08)

(b) 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, marihuana;
- (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.)



- (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 assistance dog that was the subject of the violation or resulted in serious physical harm to the police dog or horse or the assistance dog or horse that was the subject of the violation 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>529.99</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

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**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 the person's 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 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 the physician's 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, D-8, 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 an orchestral performance and the holder the F-9 permit 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.
- 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 of 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-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-5G, D-5H, D-5K, D-8, F, F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5, F-6, 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-5I, D-5J, 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.

**529.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

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**CHAPTER 531**  
**Noise**

<b>531.01</b>	<b>Unlawful noise prohibited.</b>	<b>531.06</b>	<b>Agricultural activities.</b>
<b>531.02</b>	<b>Unlawful noise enumerated.</b>	<b>531.07</b>	<b>Exemptions.</b>
<b>531.03</b>	<b>Specific prohibitions.</b>	<b>531.08</b>	<b>Civil forfeiture.</b>
<b>531.04</b>	<b>Individuals responsible.</b>	<b>531.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>
<b>531.05</b>	<b>Warning and alarm devices.</b>		

**CROSS REFERENCES**

Mufflers - see TRAF. 337.20

Barking or howling dogs - see GEN. OFF. 505.09

**531.01 UNLAWFUL NOISE PROHIBITED.**

It is unlawful for any owner, occupant, agent or persons in possession or control of any structure, lot, thing or building, premises or vehicle to make, continue or cause to be made or continued, or permit to be made, any excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud noise which disturbs, annoys, injures or endangers the comfort, repose or health, peace or safety of persons of ordinary sensibilities with the Village.

(Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

**531.02 UNLAWFUL NOISE ENUMERATED.**

The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud, disturbing, injurious and unnecessary and unlawful noises in violation of this chapter, but this enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive, namely:

- (a) Horns and Signal Devices. The sounding of any horn or signal device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus or train, or any other vehicle while not in motion, except as a danger signal or to give warning of intent to get into motion, or, if in motion, only as a danger signal after or as brakes are being applied and decelerating of the vehicle has begun; the creation by means of such signal devices of any unreasonably loud or harsh sounds; and the sounding of any signal device for any unreasonable or unnecessary period of time.
- (b) Radio, Stereo, Musical Instruments. The playing of any radio, stereo, television set, amplified or unamplified musical instruments, loudspeaker, tape recorder or other electronic sound-producing devices, in such a manner or with such volume at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons in any office or in any dwelling, hotel, hospital or other type of residence, or of any persons in the vicinity. The operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph, machine or device in such a manner as to be plainly audible on the property or in a dwelling unit other than that in which it is located, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

- (c) Loud Noises and Disturbances. Yelling, shouting, hooting or the making of any other loud noises on the public streets, or the making of any such noise at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons in any dwelling, hotel, hospital or other type of residence, or in any office or of any persons in the vicinity.
- (d) Animal Noises. The keeping of any animal, which by causing frequent or long continued noise shall disturb the comfort or repose of any person.
- (e) Whistle or Siren. The blowing of any whistles or sirens, except to give notice of the time to begin or stop work or as a warning of fire or danger.
- (f) Engine Exhaust. The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any engine, or internal combustion engine, except through a muffler or other device which effectively prevents loud or explosive noises therefrom.
- (g) Noisy Advertising. No person shall, by ringing a bell or gong, or by using a photograph or other instrument for producing or reproducing sounds, or by using loud or boisterous language or by any unusual noise or means whatever, advertise goods, wares, or merchandise for sale, or advertise any show, theater, exhibition or entertainment.
- (h) Noisy Machinery. No person shall maintain, run or operate any steam, gas, gasoline or other engine, boiler, press, machine, or other apparatus so constructed or operated as to make any unnecessary noise, to the annoyance and discomfort of the people of the Village, except in the course of making an emergency repair and for weather necessitated activities.
- (i) Noise-producing Instruments. The use of any device, apparatus, radio, ticker or other noise-making and noise-emitting device for general advertising purposes, or for the purpose of soliciting trade or attracting attention to any wares, goods, merchandise, instrument or device offered for sale is prohibited.  
(Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

### 531.03 SPECIFIC PROHIBITIONS.

It is prima facie unlawful for a person to generate or permit to be generated sound regardless of source in the following circumstances:

- (a) On private property between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and 8:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday of the following day in a residential area where the sound is audible past the property line of the property on which the source of sound is located; or
- (b) On a street, highway or in the public right-of-way where the sound is audible thirty (30) feet from the device generating the sound. Persons in possession of a current parade permit, assemblage permit or a current loud-speaker permit are exempt from the provisions of this subsection; or
- (c) By conducting an unduly large gathering at a private residence or in a private residential area which generates excessive noise at any time.  
(Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

### 531.04 INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE.

No person being the owner, or person in control of the premises by reason of employment, agency, or otherwise, whether such ownership, possession or control is exclusive or joint, shall permit a violation of this chapter. An owner or agent for the owner of the property in violation as set forth in this section may be charged for the violations of this chapter committed by others on the property. (Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

**531.05 WARNING AND ALARM DEVICES.**

Warning and alarm devices which have the purpose of signaling unsafe or dangerous situations or calling for police are exempted from the prohibitions of this section when used for such purposes and are in proper working order.

(Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

**531.06 AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.**

Agricultural activities conducted within an agricultural district as authorized in Ohio R.C. Chapter 929, shall be exempted from the prohibitions of this section when the activities are not in conflict with federal, state or local laws or are conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. (Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

**531.07 EXEMPTIONS.**

Events officially sponsored and/or approved by the Village, such as festivals, fireworks, parades, etc., shall be exempt from the prohibitions of this section.

(Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

**531.08 CIVIL FORFEITURE.**

Contraband or instrumentalities used in the commission of offenses in violation of this chapter are expressly subject to civil forfeiture under the provision set forth in Title 29 of the Ohio Revised Code either as now in effect or as subsequently amended.

(Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

**531.99 PENALTY.**

Whoever violates this chapter is guilty of generating unreasonable noise and a minor misdemeanor. If the offender persists in generating, or permitting to be generated, the unreasonable noise after a reasonable warning or request to desist, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (Ord. 2007-14. Passed 7-23-07.)

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**CHAPTER 533**  
**Obscenity and Sex Offenses**

<b>533.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>533.10</b>	<b>Prostitution.</b>
<b>533.02</b>	<b>Presumption of knowledge; actual notice and defense.</b>	<b>533.11</b>	<b>Disseminating matter harmful to juveniles.</b>
<b>533.03</b>	<b>Unlawful sexual conduct with a minor.</b>	<b>533.12</b>	<b>Deception to obtain matter harmful to juveniles.</b>
<b>533.04</b>	<b>Sexual imposition.</b>	<b>533.13</b>	<b>Displaying matter harmful to juveniles.</b>
<b>533.05</b>	<b>Importuning.</b>	<b>533.14</b>	<b>Unlawful advertising of massage.</b>
<b>533.06</b>	<b>Voyeurism.</b>	<b>533.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>
<b>533.07</b>	<b>Public indecency.</b>		
<b>533.08</b>	<b>Procuring.</b>		
<b>533.09</b>	<b>Soliciting.</b>		
<b>533.091</b>	<b>Loitering to engage in solicitation.</b>		

**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.)

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**CHAPTER 537**  
**Offenses Against Persons**

<b>537.01</b>	<b>Negligent homicide.</b>	<b>537.12</b>	<b>Misuse of 9-1-1 system.</b>
<b>537.02</b>	<b>Vehicular homicide and manslaughter.</b>	<b>537.13</b>	<b>Adulterating of or furnishing adulterated food or confection.</b>
<b>537.021</b>	<b>Vehicular assault in a construction zone.</b>	<b>537.14</b>	<b>Domestic violence.</b>
<b>537.03</b>	<b>Assault.</b>	<b>537.15</b>	<b>Temporary protection order.</b>
<b>537.04</b>	<b>Negligent assault.</b>	<b>537.16</b>	<b>Illegal distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products or alternate nicotine products.</b>
<b>537.05</b>	<b>Aggravated menacing.</b>	<b>537.17</b>	<b>Criminal child enticement.</b>
<b>537.051</b>	<b>Menacing by stalking.</b>	<b>537.18</b>	<b>Contributing to unruliness or delinquency of a child.</b>
<b>537.06</b>	<b>Menacing.</b>	<b>537.99</b>	<b>Penalty.</b>
<b>537.07</b>	<b>Endangering children.</b>		
<b>537.08</b>	<b>Unlawful restraint.</b>		
<b>537.09</b>	<b>Coercion.</b>		
<b>537.10</b>	<b>Telecommunication harassment.</b>		
<b>537.11</b>	<b>Threatening or harassing telephone calls.</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. In addition to any other basis for the other person's belief 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, the other person's belief 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.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of aggravated menacing. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (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.

(c) As used in this section, "organization" includes an entity that is a governmental employer. (ORC 2903.21)

**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. In addition to any other basis for the other person's belief 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 immediately family, the other person's belief 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.

(b) Whoever violates this section 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.

(c) As used in this section, "organization" includes an entity that is a governmental employer. (ORC 2903.22)

#### **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 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) Makes the telecommunication with purpose to harass, intimidate, 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.
  - (6) Knowingly makes any comment, request, suggestion, or proposal to the recipient of the telecommunication that is threatening, intimidating, menacing, coercive, or obscene with the intent to abuse, threaten or harass the recipient;
  - (7) Without a lawful business purpose, knowingly interrupts the telecommunication service of any person;
  - (8) Without a lawful business purpose, knowingly transmits to any person, regardless of whether the telecommunication is heard in its entirety, any file, document or other communication that prevents that person from using the person's telephone service or electronic communication device;
  - (9) Knowingly makes any false statement concerning the death, injury, illness, disfigurement, reputation, indecent conduct, or criminal conduct of the recipient of the telecommunication or family or household member of the recipient with purpose to abuse, threaten, intimidate, or harass the recipient;
  - (10) Knowingly incites another person through a telecommunication or other means to harass or participate in the harassment of a person;
  - (11) Knowingly alarms the recipient by making a telecommunication without a lawful purpose at an hour or hours known to be inconvenient to the recipient and in an offensive or repetitive manner.
- (b)
- (1) 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.
  - (2) No person shall knowingly post a text or audio statement or an image on an internet web site or web page for the purpose of abusing, threatening, or harassing another person.
- (c)
- (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of telecommunication harassment.
  - (2) A violation of subsections (a)(1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), or (11) 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.

(d) No cause of action may be asserted in any court of this State against any provider of a telecommunications service, interactive computer service as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, or information service, or against any officer, employee, or agent of a telecommunication service, interactive computer service as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, or information service, for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that allegedly arises out of the provider's, officer's, employee's, or agent's provision of information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with the terms of a court order that is issued in relation to the investigation or prosecution of an alleged violation of this section. A provider of a telecommunications service, interactive computer service as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, or information service, or an officer, employee, or agent of a telecommunications service, interactive computer service as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, of information service, is immune from any civil or criminal liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property that allegedly arises out of the provider's, officer's, employee's, or agent's provision of information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with the terms of a court order that is issued in relation to the investigation or prosecution of an alleged violation of this section.

- (e) (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 electric 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 the person believes is, or will be sent, in violation of this section.
- (2) Subsection (e)(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 (e)(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.
- (4) A provider or user of an interactive computer service, as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, shall neither be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider, as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code, nor held civilly or criminally liable for the creation or development of information provided by another information content provider, as defined in Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect a person from liability to the extent that the person developed or created any content in violation of this section.

(f) Subsections (a)(5) to (11) and (b)(2) of this section do not apply to a person who, while employed or contracted by a newspaper, magazine, press association, news agency, news wire service, cable channel or cable operator, or radio or television station, is gathering, processing, transmitting, compiling, editing or disseminating information for the general public, within the scope of the person's employment in that capacity or the person's contractual authority in that capacity.

(g) As used in this section:

- (1) "Economic harm" means all direct, incidental, and consequential pecuniary harm suffered by a victim as a result of criminal conduct. "Economic harm" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
  - A. All wages, salaries, or other compensation lost as a result of the criminal conduct;
  - B. 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;
  - C. The overhead costs incurred for the time that a business is shut down as a result of the criminal conduct;
  - D. The loss of value to tangible or intangible property that was damaged as a result of the criminal conduct.
- (2) "Caller" means the person described in subsection (a) hereof who makes or causes to be made a telecommunication or who permits a telecommunication to be made from a telecommunications device under that person's control.
- (3) "Telecommunication" and "telecommunications device" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2913.01.
- (4) "Sexual activity" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2907.01.
- (5) "Family or household member" means any of the following:
  - A. Any of the following who is residing or has resided with the recipient of the telecommunication against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(9) of this section is committed:
    1. A spouse, a person living as a spouse, or a former spouse of the recipient;
    2. A parent, a foster parent, or a child of the recipient, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to the recipient;
    - 3.. A parent or a child of a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the recipient, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the recipient.
  - B. The natural parent of any child of whom the recipient of the telecommunication against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(9) of this section is committed is the other natural parent or is the putative other natural parent.
- (6) "Person living as a spouse" means a person who is living or has lived with the recipient of the telecommunication against whom the act prohibited in subsection (a)(9) of this section is committed in a common law marital relationship, who otherwise is cohabiting with the recipient, or who otherwise has cohabited with the recipient within five years prior to the date of the alleged commission of the act in question.
- (7) "Cable operator" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 1332.21.

(h) Nothing in this section prohibits a person from making a telecommunication call to a debtor that is in compliance with the "Fair Debt Collection Practices Act", 91 Stat. 874 (1977), 15 U.S.C. 1692, as amended, or the "Telephone Consumer Protection Act", 105 Stat. 2395 (1991), 47 U.S.C. 227, as amended. (ORC 2917.21)

**537.11 THREATENING OR HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Ohio R.C. 4931.31 from which Section 537.11 was derived was repealed by Senate Bill 162, effective September 13, 2010. See now Section 537.10 "Telecommunication Harassment".)

**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 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

(a) No person shall knowingly cause or attempt to cause physical harm to a family or household member.

(b) No person shall recklessly cause serious physical harm to a family or household member.

(c) No person, by threat of force, shall knowingly cause a family or household member to believe that the offender will cause imminent physical harm to the family or household member.

- (d)
- (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of domestic violence.
  - (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(3) to (5) of this section, a violation of subsection (c) of this section is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, and a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
  - (3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(4) of this section, if the offender previously has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of domestic violence, a violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States that is substantially similar to domestic violence, a violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.14, 2909.06, 2909.07, 2911.12, 2911.211, or 2919.22 if the victim of the violation was a family or household member at the time of the violation, a violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or the United States that is substantially similar to any of those sections if the victim of the violation was a family or household member at the time of the commission of the violation, or any offense of violence if the victim of the offense was a family or household member at the time of the commission of the offense, a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law, and a violation of subsection (c) of this section is a misdemeanor of the second degree.
  - (4) If the offender previously has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of two or more offenses of domestic violence or two or more violations or offenses of the type described in subsection (d)(3) of this section involving a person who was a family or household member at the time of the violations or offenses, a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law, and a violation of subsection (c) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

- (5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(3) or (4) of this section, if the offender knew that the victim of the violation was pregnant at the time of the violation, a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law, and a violation of subsection (c) of this section is a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no court or unit of local government shall charge any fee, cost, deposit, or money in connection with the filing of charges against a person alleging that the person violated this section or in connection with the prosecution of any charges so filed.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "Family or household member" means any of the following:

A. Any of the following who is residing or has resided with the offender:

1. A spouse, a person living as a spouse or a former spouse of the offender;
2. A parent, a foster parent or a child of the offender, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to the offender;
3. A parent, or a child of a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the offender; or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to a spouse, person living as a spouse or former spouse of the offender.

B. The natural parent of any child of whom the offender is the other natural parent or is the putative other natural parent.

(2) "Person living as a spouse" means a person who is living or has lived with the offender in a common law marital relationship, who otherwise is cohabiting with the offender, or who otherwise has cohabited with the offender within five years prior to the date of the alleged commission of the act in question. (ORC 2919.25)

(g) The same relief available under the Ohio Revised Code for filing a complaint for violation of Ohio R.C. 2919.25 shall be available for filing a complaint for violation of this section.

#### **537.15 TEMPORARY PROTECTION ORDER.**

(a) No person shall recklessly violate the terms of any of the following:

- (1) A protection order issued or consent agreement approved pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2919.26 or 3113.31;
- (2) A protection order issued pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2151.34, 2903.213 or 2903.214;
- (3) A protection order issued by a court of another state.

(b) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of violating a protection order.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b)(3) of this section, violating a protection order is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

- (3) If the offender previously has been convicted of, pleaded guilty to or been adjudicated a delinquent child for a violation of a protection order issued pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2151.34, 2903.213 or 2903.214, two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 2903.21, 2903.211, 2903.22, or 2911.211 that involved the same person who is the subject of the protection order or consent agreement, or one or more violations of this section, violating a protection order is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
- (4) If the offender violates a protection order or consent agreement while committing a felony offense, violating a protection order is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
- (5) If the protection order violated by the offender was an order issued pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2151.34 or 2903.214 that required electronic monitoring of the offender pursuant to that section, the court may require in addition to any other sentence imposed upon the offender that the offender be electronically monitored for a period not exceeding five years by a law enforcement agency designated by the court. If the court requires under this subsection that the offender be electronically monitored, unless the court determines that the offender is indigent, the court shall order that the offender pay the costs of the installation of the electronic monitoring device and the cost of monitoring the electronic monitoring device. If the court determines that the offender is indigent and subject to the maximum amount allowable and the rules promulgated by the Attorney General under Ohio R.C. 2903.214, the costs of the installation of the electronic monitoring device and the cost of monitoring the electronic monitoring device may be paid out of funds from the reparations fund created pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2743.191. The total amount paid from the reparations fund created pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2743.191 for electronic monitoring under this section and Ohio R.C. 2151.34 and 2903.214 shall not exceed three hundred thousand dollars per year.

(c) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under subsection (a)(3) of this section that the protection order issued by a court of another state does not comply with the requirements specified in 18 U.S.C. 2265(b) for a protection order that must be accorded full faith and credit by a court of this State or that it is not entitled to full faith and credit under 18 U.S.C. 2265(c).

(d) As used in this section, "protection order issued by a court of another state" means an injunction or another order issued by a criminal court of another state for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening acts or harassment against, contact or communication with, or physical proximity to another person, including a temporary order, and means an injunction or order of that nature issued by a civil court of another state, including a temporary order and a final order issued in an independent action or as a pendente lite order in a proceeding for other relief, if the court issued it in response to a complaint, petition or motion filed by or on behalf of a person seeking protection. "Protection order issued by a court of another state" does not include an order for support or for custody of a child. (ORC 2919.27)

**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) 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 as defined in Ohio R.C. 2151.022, or a delinquent child as defined in Ohio R.C. 2152.02.
  - (2) Act in a way tending to cause a child or a ward of the juvenile court to become an unruly child as defined in Ohio R.C. 2151.022 or a delinquent child as defined in Ohio R.C. 2152.02.
  - (3) 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.
- (b) 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.)

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**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> Vehicular vandalism.</p> <p><b>541.10</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) This section does not apply if the violation is done with purpose to defraud or the property involved is a statehouse or a courthouse, school building or other building or structure that is owned or controlled by the State, any political subdivision, or any department, agency or instrumentality of the State or a political subdivision, and that is used for public purposes.

(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 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)

#### **541.10 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.)

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**CHAPTER 545**  
**Theft and Fraud**

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| <p>545.01 Definitions.</p> <p>545.02 Determining property value in theft offense.</p> <p>545.03 Property exceptions as felony offense.</p> <p>545.04 Detention of shoplifters; rights of museums and libraries.</p> <p>545.05 Petty theft.</p> <p>545.06 Unauthorized use of a vehicle; vehicle trespass.</p> <p>545.07 Insurance fraud.</p> <p>545.08 Unauthorized use of property.</p> <p>545.09 Passing bad checks.</p> <p>545.10 Misuse of credit cards.</p> | <p>545.11 Making or using slugs.</p> <p>545.12 Tampering with coin machines.</p> <p>545.13 Criminal simulation.</p> <p>545.14 Tampering with records.</p> <p>545.15 Securing writings by deception.</p> <p>545.16 Personating an officer.</p> <p>545.17 Defrauding creditors.</p> <p>545.18 Receiving stolen property.</p> <p>545.19 Possession of criminal tools.</p> <p>545.20 Forgery of identification cards.</p> <p>545.99 Penalty.</p> |
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**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, or 2921.41.

- (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.
- (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)

**545.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)

**CHAPTER 549**  
**Weapons and Explosives**

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| <p><b>549.01</b> Definitions.</p> <p><b>549.02</b> Carrying concealed weapons.</p> <p><b>549.03</b> Using weapons while intoxicated.</p> <p><b>549.04</b> Improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle.</p> <p><b>549.05</b> Failure to secure dangerous ordnance.</p> | <p><b>549.06</b> Unlawful transactions in weapons.</p> <p><b>549.07</b> Underage purchase of firearm.</p> <p><b>549.08</b> Discharging firearms.</p> <p><b>549.09</b> Throwing or shooting missiles.</p> <p><b>549.10</b> Possessing replica firearm in school.</p> <p><b>549.11</b> Defacing identification marks of a firearm; possessing a defaced firearm.</p> <p><b>549.99</b> Penalty.</p> |
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 License or permit to possess dangerous ordnance - see  
     Ohio R.C. 2923.18  
 Hunting prohibited - see GEN. OFF. 505.11  
 Reporting gunshot and stab wounds - see GEN. OFF. 525.05(b)  
 Property destruction by tear gas device, etc. - see GEN. OFF. 541.04

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**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 that is inoperable but that 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. "Automatic firearm" also means any semi-automatic firearm designed or specially adapted to fire more than thirty-one cartridges without reloading, other than a firearm chambering only .22 caliber short, long or long-rifle cartridges.
- (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, that is not designed as a firearm, but that is specially adapted for use as a firearm;
  - (3) Any industrial tool, signalling device or safety device, that is not designed as a firearm, but that 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 that 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 silencer;
  - (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, that employs a percussion cap or other obsolete ignition system, or that 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 that, 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 (l)(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 that is inoperable or inert and cannot readily be rendered operable or activated, and that is kept as a trophy, souvenir, curio or museum piece.
  - (6) Any device that 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 license 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. (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 or 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, is carrying a valid concealed handgun license, 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 subsection (f)(2) 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 subsection (f)(2) 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 subsection (f)(2) 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) 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 neither subsection (f)(2)A. nor B. of this section applies, the offender shall be punished under subsection (f)(1) 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).

(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, 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 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 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 carrying a valid concealed handgun license.
  - 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 the person's possession or under the person's 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 FIREARMS.**

(a) No person shall discharge any air gun, rifle, shotgun, revolver, pistol or other firearm within the corporate limits of the Municipality.

(b) This section does not apply when firearms are used in self defense, in the discharge of official duty or when otherwise lawfully authorized.

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

**549.09 THROWING OR SHOOTING MISSILES.**

(a) No person shall throw, shoot or propel an arrow, missile, pellet, stone, metal or other similar substance capable of causing physical harm to persons or property, in or on any public place, in or on the property of another, or from any private property into or onto any public place or the property of another. This section does not apply to supervised archery ranges or instruction nor when otherwise lawfully authorized.

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

**549.10 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)

**549.11 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**

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| <p><b>553.01</b> Obstructing streets by railroad companies.</p> <p><b>553.011</b> Obstructing streets by abandoning the locomotive.</p> <p><b>553.02</b> Climbing upon railroad cars.</p> | <p><b>553.03</b> Duties of locomotive engineer.</p> <p><b>553.04</b> Railroad vandalism.</p> <p><b>553.05</b> Grade crossing device vandalism.</p> <p><b>553.99</b> Penalty.</p> |
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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 do the following:
- (1) 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;
  - (2) When approaching a grade crossing, fail to sound the locomotive whistle at frequent intervals, beginning not less than 1,320 feet from such crossing and continuing until the locomotive has passed the crossing.

(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 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)

**553.05 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.)

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