

Why You Should Know

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

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

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

General Guide to State Law Requirements

DL = Driver's License
Rd = Roadway

Reg = Registration
Side = Sidewalk/Bike Path

Type	DL	Reg	Rd	Side
Motorized Scooter/ Go-Ped (Gas/elec.)	yes	yes*	no	no
Pocket Bike	yes	yes*	no	no
Moped (Gas/elec.)	yes	yes	yes	pedal power
Motorized Bicycle (elec)	no	no	yes	pedal power

*According to Florida law, motorized scooters, go-peds, and pocket bikes are considered motor vehicles. However, because motorized scooters, go-peds, and pocket bikes are not manufactured to meet the required federal Motor Vehicle Safety Act, they cannot be registered for operation on public roadways, even if the operator has a valid driver's license. Mopeds can be registered for operation on public roadways, but an operator must have a valid driver's license to operate one. Operators of motorized bicycles do not need a valid driver's license and are not required to register them in order to operate them on public roadways.



For more information, contact:

Orange County Sheriff's Office
Specialized Patrol

407-836-0800

Emergency 9-1-1

Non-Emergency 407-836-HELP (4357)

www.ocso.com



**ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jerry L. Demings



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



Motorized Scooters, Go-Peds, and Pocket Bike

Motorized scooters/gopeds are small two or three-wheel vehicles that a person may stand or sit upon to operate or ride. Some have electric motors, and some have gas engines. The steering is managed by use of a Tshaped handlebar.

Pocket bikes are miniature motorcycles with 50 cc or less gas engines that have automatic transmissions.

Motorized scooters, go-peds, and pocket bikes cannot be legally operated on public roadways, sidewalks, or bicycle paths.

Mopeds and Motorized Bicycles

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

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

Persons 16 and older may operate a moped or a motorized bicycle on public roadways. Mopeds and motorized bicycles can be operated on sidewalks and bike paths only if operated solely by human power. Persons under 16 may only operate mopeds on private property and must wear protective headgear securely fastened upon their heads.

Where can my child ride a motorized scooter, go-ped, or pocket bike?

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

If motorized scooters, go-peds, or pocket bikes are illegal to ride on the roadways and sidewalks, then why are businesses allowed to sell them?

It is not against the law to possess, use, or operate a motorized scooter, go-ped, or pocket bike, as long as you are on private property. Therefore, it is not against the law for businesses to sell them.



What are the consequences should my child be stopped by a law enforcement officer while riding his motorized scooter, go-ped, pocket bike, moped, or motorized bicycle?

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

- ❖ If caught operating a moped or motorized bicycle using engine power, or a motorized scooter, go-ped, or pocket bike, on a sidewalk, the operator will be issued a moving traffic citation for operating a motorized vehicle on a sidewalk. Florida Statute 316.1995.
- ❖ The operator is also eligible to receive a criminal citation for operating an unregistered motor vehicle. This is a criminal violation which requires a mandatory court date, and the operator is subject to arrest. Florida Statute 320.02.
- ❖ To operate a motor vehicle in the State of Florida, the operator must possess a valid driver's license. If the operator is caught operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, he or she is subject to a criminal citation, mandatory court appearance, and/or arrest. Florida Statute 322.03.
- ❖ Parents who knowingly allow a juvenile who has no driver's license to operate a motor vehicle on public streets may be cited for a violation of Florida Statute 322.35, "Permitting an Unauthorized Minor to Drive." This is an arrestable misdemeanor.

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