

**TITLE SEVEN - Parking**  
**Chap. 351. Parking Generally.**

**CHAPTER 351**  
**Parking Generally**

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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Owner nonliability, lease defense - see Ohio R.C. 4511.071  
 Police may remove ignition key from unattended vehicle - see TRAF. 303.03  
 Parking near stopped fire apparatus - see TRAF. 331.27  
 Lights on parked or stopped vehicles - see TRAF. 337.09

**351.01 POLICE MAY REMOVE UNATTENDED VEHICLE WHICH OBSTRUCTS TRAFFIC.**

Whenever any police officer finds a vehicle unattended upon any street, bridge or causeway, or in any tunnel, where such vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic, such officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle to the nearest garage or other place of safety.  
(ORC 4511.67)

**351.02 REGISTERED OWNER PRIMA-FACIE LIABLE FOR UNLAWFUL PARKING.**

In any hearing on a charge of illegally parking a motor vehicle, testimony that a vehicle bearing a certain license plate was found unlawfully parked as prohibited by the provisions of this Traffic Code, and further testimony that the record of the Ohio Registrar of Motor Vehicles shows that the license plate was issued to the defendant, shall be prima-facie evidence that the vehicle which was unlawfully parked, was so parked by the defendant. A certified registration copy, showing such fact, from the Registrar shall be proof of such ownership.

**351.03 PROHIBITED STANDING OR PARKING PLACES.**

No person shall stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with the provisions of this Traffic Code, or while obeying the directions of a police officer or a traffic control device, in any of the following places:

- (a) On a sidewalk, curb or street lawn area, except a bicycle;
- (b) In front of a public or private driveway;
- (c) Within an intersection;
- (d) Within ten feet of a fire hydrant;
- (e) On a crosswalk;
- (f) Within twenty feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- (g) Within thirty feet of, and upon the approach to, any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic control device;
- (h) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within thirty feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the end of a safety zone, unless a different length is indicated by a traffic control device;
- (i) Within fifty feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;
- (j) Within twenty feet of a driveway entrance to any fire station and, on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station, within seventy-five feet of the entrance when it is properly posted with signs;
- (k) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such standing or parking would obstruct traffic;
- (l) Alongside any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (m) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a street, or within a street tunnel;
- (n) At any place where signs prohibit stopping, standing or parking, or where the curbing or street is painted yellow, or at any place in excess of the maximum time limited by signs;
- (o) Within one foot of another parked vehicle;
- (p) On the roadway portion of a freeway, expressway or thruway.  
(ORC 4511.68)
- (q) Within any lawfully designated fire lane.
- (r) Within any lawfully designated horse-drawn carriage stop.  
(Ord. 76-83. Passed 9-19-83.)

**351.04 PARKING NEAR CURB; HANDICAPPED LOCATIONS ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LOTS AND GARAGES.**

(a) Every vehicle stopped or parked upon a roadway where there is an adjacent curb shall be stopped or parked with the curb side wheels of the vehicle parallel with and not more than twelve inches from the curb, unless it is impossible to approach so close to the curb; in such case the stop shall be as close to the curb as possible and only for the time necessary to discharge and receive passengers or to load or unload merchandise.

(b) This subsection does not apply to streets or parts thereof where angle parking is lawfully permitted. However, no angle parking shall be permitted on a State Route unless an unoccupied roadway width of not less than twenty-five feet is available for free-moving traffic.

(c) No vehicle shall be stopped or parked on a road or street with the vehicle facing in a direction other than the direction of travel on that side of the road or street.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this Code or any rule, air compressors, tractors, trucks and other equipment, while being used in the construction, reconstruction, installation, repair or removal of facilities near, on, over or under a street, may stop, stand or park where necessary in order to perform such work, provided a flagperson is on duty, or warning signs or lights are displayed as may be prescribed by the Ohio Director of Transportation.

(e) Special parking locations and privileges for persons with disabilities that limit or impair the ability to walk, also known as handicapped parking spaces or disability parking spaces shall be provided and designated by the Municipality and all agencies and instrumentalities thereof at all offices and facilities, where parking is provided, whether owned, rented or leased, and at all publicly owned parking garages. The locations shall be designated through the posting of an elevated sign, whether permanently affixed or movable, imprinted with the international symbol of access and shall be reasonably close to exits, entrances, elevators and ramps. All elevated signs posted in accordance with this subsection and Ohio R.C. 3781.111 (C) shall be mounted on a fixed or movable post, and the distance from the ground to the top edge of the sign shall measure five feet. If a new sign or a replacement sign designating a special parking location is posted on or after October 14, 1999, there also shall be affixed upon the surface of that sign or affixed next to the designating sign a notice that states the fine applicable for the offense of parking a motor vehicle in the special designated parking location if the motor vehicle is not legally entitled to be parked in that location.

- (f) (1) No person shall stop, stand or park any motor vehicle at special parking locations provided under subsection (e) hereof, or at special clearly marked parking locations provided in or on privately owned parking lots, parking garages, or other parking areas and designated in accordance with subsection (e) hereof, unless one of the following applies:
- A. The motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and is displaying a valid removable windshield placard or special license plates;
  - B. The motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a handicapped person and is displaying a parking card or special handicapped license plates.

- (2) Any motor vehicle that is parked in a special marked parking location in violation of subsection (f)(1) of this section may be towed or otherwise removed from the parking location by the Police Department. A motor vehicle that is so towed or removed shall not be released to its owner until the owner presents proof of ownership of the motor vehicle and pays all towing and storage fees normally imposed by the Municipality for towing and storing motor vehicles. If the motor vehicle is a leased vehicle, it shall not be released to the lessee until the lessee presents proof that that person is the lessee of the motor vehicle and pays all towing and storage fees normally imposed by the Municipality for towing and storing motor vehicles.
- (3) If a person is charged with a violation of subsection (f)(1) of this section, it is an affirmative defense to the charge that the person suffered an injury not more than seventy-two hours prior to the time the person was issued the ticket or citation and that, because of the injury, the person meets at least one of the criteria contained in Ohio R.C. 4503.44(A)(1).

(g) When a motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and is displaying a removable windshield placard or a temporary removable windshield placard or special license plates, or when a motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a handicapped person and is displaying a parking card or special handicapped license plates, the motor vehicle is permitted to park for a period of two hours in excess of the legal parking period permitted by local authorities, except where local ordinances or police rules provide otherwise or where the vehicle is parked in such a manner as to be clearly a traffic hazard.

- (h) As used in this section:
- (1) "Handicapped person" means any person who has lost the use of one or both legs, or one or both arms, who is blind, deaf or so severely handicapped as to be unable to move without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or whose mobility is restricted by a permanent cardiovascular, pulmonary or other handicapping condition.
  - (2) "Person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4503.44.
  - (3) "Special license plates" and "removable windshield placard" mean any license plates or removable windshield placard or temporary removable windshield placard issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.41 or 4503.44, and also mean any substantially similar license plates or removable windshield placard or temporary removable windshield placard issued by a state, district, country or sovereignty.  
(ORC 4511.69)

### **351.05 MANNER OF ANGLE PARKING.**

Upon streets where angle parking is permitted, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle other than at the angle to the curb or edge of the roadway as is indicated by appropriate signs or markings.

**351.06 SELLING, WASHING OR REPAIRING VEHICLE UPON ROADWAY.**

No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle upon any roadway for the principal purpose of:

- (a) Displaying such vehicle for sale;
- (b) Washing, greasing or repairing such vehicle except repairs necessitated by an emergency.

**351.07 UNATTENDED VEHICLE: DUTY TO STOP ENGINE, REMOVE KEY, SET BRAKE AND TURN WHEELS.**

No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key from the ignition, effectively setting the parking brake, and, when the motor vehicle is standing upon any grade, turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway.

The requirements of this section relating to the stopping of the engine, locking of the ignition and removing the key from the ignition of a motor vehicle shall not apply to an emergency vehicle or a public safety vehicle.

(ORC 4511.661)

**351.08 OPENING VEHICLE DOOR ON TRAFFIC SIDE.**

No person shall open the door of a vehicle on the side available to moving traffic unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so, and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, nor shall any person leave a door open on the side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.

(ORC 4511.70(C))

**351.09 TRUCK LOADING ZONES.**

(a) No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle for any purpose or length of time other than for the expeditious unloading and delivery or pickup and loading of materials in any place marked as a truck loading zone during hours when the provisions applicable to such zones are in effect. In no case shall the stop for loading or unloading of materials exceed thirty minutes.

(b) No person shall stop, for the purpose of loading or unloading in the Central Business District, any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding in length twenty-four feet, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. unless a permit therefor shall have been first obtained from the Chief of Police. This section shall not apply to buses.

**351.10 BUS STOPS AND TAXICAB STANDS.**

(a) No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle other than a bus in a bus stop, or other than a taxicab in a taxicab stand when any such stop or stand has been officially designated and appropriately posted, except that the driver of a passenger vehicle may temporarily stop therein for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers when such stopping does not interfere with any bus or taxicab waiting to enter or about to enter such zone, and then only for a period not to exceed three minutes, if such stopping is not prohibited therein by posted signs.

(b) The operator of a bus shall not stop, stand or park such vehicle upon any street at any place for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or their baggage other than at a bus stop so designated and posted as such, except in case of an emergency.

(c) The operator of a bus shall enter a bus stop on a public street in such a manner that the bus when stopped to load or unload passengers or baggage shall be in a position with the right front wheel of such vehicle not further than eighteen inches from the curb and the bus approximately parallel to the curb so as not to unduly impede the movement of other vehicular traffic.

(d) The operator of a taxicab shall not stand or park such vehicle upon any street at any place other than in a taxicab stand so designated and posted as such. This provision shall not prevent the operator of a taxicab from temporarily stopping in accordance with other stopping or parking provisions at any place for the purpose of and while actually engaged in the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers.

### **351.11 LOADING OR UNLOADING; BACKING; PERMIT.**

(a) The driver or person in charge of a vehicle shall not back such vehicle to the curb of a street for the purpose of loading or unloading such vehicle except upon special permit from the Chief of Police, and if such vehicle is horse-drawn, then the horse or horses shall be parallel with the curb and facing in the direction the traffic is moving at that curb.

(b) The Chief of Police is authorized to issue special permits to permit the backing of a vehicle to the curb for the purpose of loading or unloading merchandise or materials subject to the terms and conditions of such permit. Such permits may be issued either to the owner or lessee of real property or to the owner of the vehicle and shall grant to such person the privilege as stated and authorized herein, and no permittee or other person shall violate any of the special terms or conditions of any such permit.

### **351.12 PARKING IN ALLEYS AND NARROW STREETS; EXCEPTIONS.**

No person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle upon a street, other than an alley, in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten feet of the width of the roadway for free movement of vehicular traffic, except that a driver may stop temporarily during the actual loading or unloading of passengers or when directed to by a police officer or traffic control signal.

Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle within an alley except while actually loading and unloading, and then only for a period not to exceed thirty minutes.

### **351.13 PROHIBITION AGAINST PARKING ON STREETS OR HIGHWAYS.**

Upon any street or highway outside a business or residence district, no person shall stop, park or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon the paved or main traveled part of the street or highway if it is practicable to stop, park or so leave such vehicle off the paved or main traveled part of such street or highway. In every event, a clear and unobstructed portion of the street or highway opposite such standing vehicle shall be left for the free passage of other vehicles, and a clear view of such stopped vehicle shall be available from a distance of 200 feet in each direction upon such street or highway.

This section does not apply to the driver of any vehicle which is disabled while on the paved or improved or main traveled portion of a street or highway in such manner and to such extent that it is impossible to avoid stopping and temporarily leaving the disabled vehicle in such position. (ORC 4511.66)

**351.14 ALL DAY AND NIGHT PARKING PROHIBITED.**

No person shall park a vehicle on any street for a period of time in excess of eighteen hours, provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. (Ord. 41-97. Passed 3-17-97.)

**351.15 STOPPING OR PARKING NEAR HAZARDOUS OR CONGESTED PLACES AND TEMPORARY NO PARKING FOR STREET MAINTENANCE.**

(a) The Chief of Police is hereby authorized to determine and designate by proper signs places in which the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles would create an especially hazardous condition or would cause unusual delay to traffic, and upon the request of the Director of Public Safety, the Chief of Police is hereby authorized to determine and designate by proper signs, for a period not in excess of forty-eight hours, streets, or parts thereof, in which the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles would interfere with the maintenance of such street or part thereof.

(b) When official signs are erected at hazardous or congested places or in streets or parts thereof to facilitate the maintenance thereof on the request of the Director of Public Safety, as authorized herein, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle in any such designated place or street. (Ord. 43-74. Passed 7-15-74.)

**351.16 PARKING VEHICLES DESIGNED TO CARRY INFLAMMABLE LIQUID.**

No person shall park any vehicle designed to transport inflammable liquid in bulk on the streets, alleys or other public ways in the City within 500 feet of any hospital, school building, church, theater or public auditorium. This section shall not apply to the parking of such vehicle while actually loading or unloading nor while such vehicle is parked for the purpose of making necessary emergency repairs thereto.

**351.17 TRAILER OR SEMI-TRAILER WITHOUT MOTOR POWER ATTACHED.**

No person shall park any trailer or semi-trailer upon any street or highway when such trailer or semi-trailer does not have the motor power used in conjunction therewith, attached to the trailer or semi-trailer.

**351.18 HEAVY TRUCKS.**

(a) Except as herein otherwise expressly provided, no owner or operator of a heavy truck shall park or permit the same to be parked on any street or alley, at any time on Sundays and holidays, and between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on any other day.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a truck, tractor, or trailer which is parked while loading or unloading merchandise; nor to the parking of such truck, tractor or trailer during the time when the driver or operator thereof has stopped to eat, or for other necessary purposes, provided, however, that such parking shall in no event be for a longer period than thirty minutes; nor when such parking is necessitated by an emergency or by an act of God.

**351.19 PAYMENT OF FINES; COURT APPEARANCE.**

(a) Any person charged with a violation of any provision of this chapter for which payment of a fine may be made to the City, as specified in Section 351.20 hereof, shall have the option of paying such fine within the time specified in the notice of arrest, at such place as in the notice specified, upon entering a plea of guilty and upon waiving appearance in Court; or may have the option of depositing required lawful bail and upon a plea of not guilty shall be entitled to a trial as authorized by law.

(b) The payment of any fine under the option mentioned in subsection (a) hereof to the City at the place specified in the notice shall be deemed an acknowledgment of conviction of the alleged offense and the City, upon accepting the prescribed fine, shall issue to the violator a receipt acknowledging payment thereof.  
(Ord. 53-71. Passed 7-19-71.)

**351.20 OFFENSES AND FINES FOR WHICH PAYMENT MAY BE MADE TO CITY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.**

(a) A fine of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for any parking violation of this chapter except a violation of Sections 351.03(q) or 351.04(f) may be paid to the City under the provisions of Section 351.19 if paid within fifteen days of the issuance of the notice of arrest.

(b) A fine of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for any parking violation of this chapter except a violation of Sections 351.03(q) or 351.04(f) may be paid to the City under the provisions of Section 351.19 if paid after fifteen days of the issuance of the notice of arrest and within forty-five days thereof. (Ord. 45-95. Passed 5-1-95.)

(c) A fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for any parking violation of Section 351.03(q) and a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for any parking violation of Section 351.04(f) may be paid to the City under provisions of Section 351.19 if paid within fifteen days of the issuance of the notice of arrest. (Ord. 132-99. Passed 12-6-99.)

(d) A fine of sixty dollars (\$60.00) for any parking violation of Section 351.03(q) and a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for any parking violation of Section 351.04(f) may be paid to the City under provisions of Section 351.19 if paid after fifteen days of the issuance of the notice of arrest and within forty-five days thereof. Any subsequent violation within one year of Section 351.04(f) shall result in a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).  
(Ord. 125-99. Passed 11-1-99.)

(e) The fines specified for the offenses enumerated in subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) hereof are hereby declared to be applicable with respect to the above enumerated offenses only when the person charged with such offense appears at the place and within the time specified in the notice of arrest, waives appearance in Court and pleads guilty to such offense. Under all other circumstances the penalties for the above enumerated offenses shall be as provided in Section 303.99.  
(Ord. 45-95. Passed 5-1-95.)

**351.21 PARKING ON POSTED PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

If an owner of private property posts on the property in a conspicuous manner, a prohibition against parking on the property or conditions and regulations under which parking is permitted, no person shall do either of the following:

- (a) Park a vehicle on the property without the owner's consent;
- (b) Park a vehicle on the property in violation of any condition or regulation posted by the owner. (ORC 4511.681)

**351.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 303.99 for misdemeanor classifications and penalties.)

