

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP  
YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 8-2008**

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION AND USE OF  
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES WITHIN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP  
AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell Township (Township) is a second class township, governed by the Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. §65101 et seq., which authorizes the Township to adopt ordinances for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the use and operation of recreational vehicles within Hopewell Township may create a public nuisance and adversely affect the public's health, safety and welfare by the creation of excessive noise, dust and fumes; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Ordinance is to provide for the reasonable regulation of recreational vehicles in Hopewell Township so as to reduce noise and air pollution, protect the public's health, safety and welfare; and to provide for the peaceable and quiet enjoyment of property.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, and it is hereby ordained and enacted as follows:

**SECTION 1: Definitions.**

**OCCUPANT** - a Person who regularly resides on the property in question.

**OWNER** - any Person who has legal or equitable title to the property on which a Recreational Vehicle is being operated.

**PERSON** - an individual, group of individuals, a partnership, firm, association or any other entity.

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE** -- All motorized vehicles, designed or re-designed or otherwise being used for off-road recreational use, including, but not limited to the following:

- a. Motorcycles
- b. Trail bikes

- c. All terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- d. Go carts
- e. Snowmobiles
- f. Trucks, sports utility vehicles (SUVs), and 4 wheel drive vehicles
- g. Any other similar mechanized vehicle (excluding battery only operated vehicles)

The term "Recreational Vehicle" shall not include motorized vehicles for law enforcement, fire, emergency, fire emergency, military, or other authorized government purposes, or off-road motorized vehicles used as utility vehicles for agriculture, husbandry, lawn care, snow removal or business operations.

**SECTION 2: Operation and Use of Recreational Vehicles on Private Property.** The following regulations shall apply for the use of a Recreational Vehicle on private real property:

**A. Owner or Occupant.** Only the Owner, Occupant, permitted guests and family may operate a Recreational Vehicle on private real property subject to the restrictions outlined herein.

**B. Setback Requirements.**

- 1. A Person operating a Recreational Vehicle must remain at least three hundred (300) feet from any property line, including property road frontage and associated roadway right-of-way lines, unless written permission has been obtained by the adjoining property owner to operate the recreational vehicle within any reduced setback, and with any additional mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- 2. It shall not be a violation of this Section to operate a Recreational Vehicle within the required setback for purposes of ingress and egress from or onto a driveway.

**C. Additional Restrictions.**

- 1. No more than four (4) Recreational Vehicles may be operated at the same time.
- 2. A person may operate a Recreational Vehicle only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., prevailing time.
- 3. An operator or operators may ride a Recreational Vehicle for no longer than a total of one (1) hour at a time with a two (2) hour rest period between the next operation of a Recreational Vehicle.

- D. Dust.** A person shall not generate or permit to be generated as a result of the use or operation of any Recreational Vehicle any dust which crosses over onto an adjoining or adjacent property that will interfere with the reasonable use of and enjoyment of the residential use of the property, either inside or outside.
- E. Equipment Exhaust.** All Recreational Vehicles shall be fitted with the original equipment exhaust while in operation.
- F. Environmentally Sensitive Areas.** No Person shall operate, allow or permit the operation of a Recreational Vehicle within a stream, creek, waterway, drainage-way, wetland, or erosion sensitive areas, or within fifty (50) feet of such environmentally sensitive areas.
- G. Livestock.** No Person shall operate, allow or permit the operation of a Recreational Vehicle within five hundred (500) feet of any type of livestock.

**SECTION 3: Operation and Use of a Recreational Vehicle on Township Property.**

No Person shall operate a Recreational Vehicle on Township property without the express written consent of the Township.

**SECTION 4: Enforcement and Penalty.**

- A. Violations a Public Nuisance; Persons Liable.** A violation of this Ordinance shall be deemed a public nuisance, and shall subject the Owner of the property and/or any Person operating a Recreational Vehicle in violation of this Ordinance to summary enforcement proceedings.
- B. Enforcement; First Offense.** The Pennsylvania State Police (or successor police department) and such persons as may from time to time be designated by the Township are authorized to make an initial determination of violation of, and to enforce, the provisions of this Ordinance. An initial determination of a violation of this Ordinance shall result in a verbal warning to the Occupant, or Owner or operator of the Recreational Vehicle.
- C. Penalties.** A second or subsequent violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to summary enforcement proceedings and upon being found guilty thereof shall subject the violator to a fine of \$600.00 for a second offense (following a verbal warning), and \$1000.00 for a third offense. Upon default in payment of a fine and upon a guilty finding of a third or subsequent offense the violator may be subject to a term of imprisonment up to the maximum allowed by law for a summary offense. Each day that a violation continues or each section of this Ordinance that is found to be violated shall be considered a separate violation.


**SECTION 5: Miscellaneous Provisions.**

- A. Incorporation by Reference.** To the extent applicable, this Ordinance incorporates by reference thereto the provisions of the rules and regulations relating to the "Pennsylvania Snowmobile and All Terrain Vehicle Law," 75 Pa C.S. Section 7701 et seq.
- B. Rules of Interpretation.** The use of the singular shall include the plural. The use of headings is for convenience only.
- C. Severability.** The sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section or part thereof is found to be unconstitutional or unenforceable, then such finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections or parts.
- D. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective five (5) days after adoption.

**ORDAINED AND ENACTED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2008.

ATTEST:

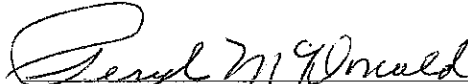
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