

# 303.081 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL OR AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.

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OH

Sheffield Lake

Codified Ordinances of Sheffield Lake, OH

303.081 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL OR AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.

CHAPTER 303 Enforcement, Impounding and Penalty

303.08 IMPOUNDING OF VEHICLES; REDEMPTION.

(a) Police officers are authorized to provide for the removal of a vehicle under the following circumstances:

(1) When any vehicle is left unattended upon any street, bridge or causeway and is so illegally parked so as to constitute a hazard or obstruction to the normal movement of traffic, or so as to unreasonably interfere with street cleaning or snow removal operations. (Adopting Ordinance)

(2) When any vehicle or "abandoned junk motor vehicle" as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63 is left on private property for more than seventy-two consecutive hours without the permission of the person having the right to the possession of the property, or on a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, or upon or within the right of way of any road or highway, for twenty-four consecutive hours or longer, without notification to the Police Chief of the reasons for leaving such vehicle in such place.

(Ord. 113-79. Passed 11-13-79.)

(3) When any vehicle has been stolen or operated without the consent of the owner and is located upon either public or private property.

(4) When any vehicle displays illegal license plates or fails to display the current lawfully required plates and is located upon any public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking.

(5) When any vehicle has been used in or connected with the commission of a felony and is located upon either public or private property.

(6) When any vehicle has been damaged or wrecked so as to be inoperable or violates equipment provisions of this Traffic Code whereby its continued operation would constitute a condition hazardous to life, limb or property, and is located upon any public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking.

(7) When any vehicle is left unattended either on public or private property due to the removal of an ill, injured or arrested operator, or due to the abandonment thereof by the operator during or immediately after pursuit by a law enforcement officer.

(8) When any vehicle has been operated by any person who has failed to stop in case of an accident or collision and is located either on public or private property.

(9) When any vehicle has been operated by any person who is driving without a lawful license or while his license has been suspended or revoked and is located upon a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking.

(10) When any vehicle is found for which two or more citation tags for violations of this Traffic Code have been issued and the owner or operator thereof has failed to respond to such citation tags as lawfully required, and is located upon a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking.

(11) Any motor vehicle found standing or parked in violation of any ordinance of the City, or any parking or traffic regulation or statute of the State may be towed by the City, if the City deems it appropriate to tow such motor vehicle. (Ord. 20-83. Passed 2-22-83.)

(b) No owner or operator shall remove an impounded vehicle from the place of storage without complying with the procedure set forth herein. Possession of a vehicle which has been impounded and unlawfully taken from the place of storage, by the owner or operator, shall constitute prima facie evidence that it was so removed by the owner or operator.

(1) Any motor vehicle towed or caused to be towed by the City shall be impounded and stored.

(2) The City shall have no liability for the towing of a motor vehicle towed pursuant to this section or for damage done to such motor vehicle.

(Ord. 59-92. Passed 7-17-92.)

(3) In order to obtain the release of a motor vehicle towed pursuant to this section, the title owner of the motor vehicle shall be required to produce evidence of ownership of the motor vehicle and shall be required to pay the towing fee and storage charges charged for the towing of and storage of the motor vehicle.

(Ord. 96-92. Passed 10-27-92.)

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### 303.081 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL OR AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.

(a) (1) The chief of a law enforcement agency of the municipal corporation, upon complaint of any person adversely affected may order into storage any motor vehicle, other than an abandoned junk motor vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63, that has been left on private residential or private agricultural property for at least four hours without the permission of the person having the right to the possession of the property. The chief, upon complaint of a repair garage or place of storage, may order into storage any motor vehicle, other than an abandoned junk motor vehicle, that has been left at the garage or place of storage for a longer period than that agreed upon. When ordering a motor vehicle into storage pursuant to this section, the chief may arrange for the removal of the motor vehicle by a towing service and shall designate a storage facility.

(2) A towing service towing a motor vehicle under subsection (a)(1) of this section shall remove the motor vehicle in accordance with that subsection. The towing service shall deliver the motor vehicle to the location designated by the chief not more than two hours after the time it is removed from the private property, unless the towing service is unable to deliver the motor vehicle within two hours due to an uncontrollable force, natural disaster, or other event that is not within the power of the towing service.

(3) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the owner of a motor vehicle that has been removed pursuant to this subsection may recover the vehicle only in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

(4) As used in this section "private residential property" means private property on which is located one or more structures that are used as a home, residence or sleeping place by one or more persons, if no more than three separate households are maintained in the structure or structures. "Private residential property" does not include any private property on which is located one or more structures that are used as a home, residence or sleeping place by two or more persons, if more than three separate households are maintained in the structure or structures.

(b) If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle that has been ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section arrives after the motor vehicle has been prepared for removal, but

prior to its actual removal from the property, the towing service shall give the owner or operator oral or written notification at the time of such arrival that the vehicle owner or operator may pay a fee of not more than one-half of the fee for the removal of the motor vehicle established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, in order to obtain release of the motor vehicle. However, if the vehicle is within a municipal corporation and the municipal corporation has established a vehicle removal fee, the towing service shall give the owner or operator oral or written notification that the owner or operator may pay not more than one-half of that fee to obtain release of the motor vehicle. That fee may be paid by use of a major credit card unless the towing service uses a mobile credit card processor and mobile service is not available at the time of the transaction.

Upon payment of the applicable fee, the towing service shall give the vehicle owner or operator a receipt showing both the full amount normally assessed and the actual amount received and shall release the motor vehicle to the owner or operator. Upon its release, the owner or operator immediately shall move it so that it is not on the private residential or private agricultural property without the permission of the person having the right to possession of the property, or is not at the garage or place of storage without the permission of the owner, whichever is applicable.

(c) (1) The chief of a law enforcement agency in the municipal corporation shall maintain a record of motor vehicles that the chief orders into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section. The record shall include an entry for each such motor vehicle that identifies the motor vehicle's license number, make, model and color, the location from which it was removed, the date and time of its removal, the telephone number of the person from whom it may be recovered, and the address of the place to which it has been taken and from which it may be recovered. The chief shall provide any information in the record that pertains to a particular motor vehicle to any person who, either in person or pursuant to a telephone call, identifies self as the owner or operator of the motor vehicle and requests information pertaining to its location.

(2) Any person who registers a complaint that is the basis of the chief's order for the removal and storage of a motor vehicle under subsection (a)(1) of this section shall provide the identity of the law enforcement agency with which the complaint was registered to any person who identifies self as the owner or operator of the motor vehicle and requests information pertaining to its location.

(d) (1) The owner or lienholder of a motor vehicle that is ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section may reclaim it upon both of the following:

A. Payment of all applicable fees established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25 or, if the vehicle was towed within a municipal corporation that has established fees for vehicle removal and storage, payment of all applicable fees established by the municipal corporation.

B. Presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the motor vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle, or a lease agreement.

(2) When the owner of a vehicle towed under this section retrieves the vehicle, the towing service or storage facility in possession of the vehicle shall give the owner written notice that if the owner disputes that the motor vehicle was lawfully towed, the owner may be able to file a civil action under Ohio R.C. 4513.611.

(3) Upon presentation of proof of ownership as required under subsection (d)(1)B. of this section, the owner of a motor vehicle that is ordered into storage under subsection (a)(1) of this section may retrieve any personal items from the motor vehicle without retrieving the vehicle and without paying any fee. However, a towing service or storage facility may charge an after-hours

retrieval fee established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25 if the owner retrieves the personal items after hours, unless the towing service or storage facility fails to provide the notice required under division (B)(3) of Ohio R.C. 4513.69, if applicable. The owner of a motor vehicle shall not do either of the following:

A. Retrieve any personal item that has been determined by the chief to be necessary to a criminal investigation;

B. Retrieve any personal item from a vehicle if it would endanger the safety of the owner unless the owner agrees to sign a waiver of liability.

For purposes of subsection (d)(2) of this section, "personal items" do not include any items that are attached to the motor vehicle.

(4) If a motor vehicle that is ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section remains unclaimed by the owner for thirty days, the procedures established by Ohio R.C. 4513.61 and 4513.62 apply.

(e) (1) No person shall remove, or cause the removal of, any motor vehicle from any private residential or private agricultural property other than in accordance with subsection (a)(1) of this section or Ohio R.C. 4513.61 to 4513.65.

(2) No towing service or storage facility shall fail to comply with the requirements of this section.

(f) This section does not apply to any private residential or private agricultural property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with Section 303.082.

(g) Whoever violates subsection (e) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

(ORC 4513.60)

#### 303.082 PRIVATE TOW-AWAY ZONES.

(a) The owner of a private property may establish a private tow-away zone, but may do so only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The owner of the private property posts on the property a sign, that is at least eighteen inches by twenty-four inches in size, that is visible from all entrances to the property, and that includes all of the following information:

A. A statement that the property is a tow-away zone;

B. A description of persons authorized to park on the property. If the property is a residential property, the owner of the private property may include on the sign a statement that only tenants and guests may park in the private tow-away zone, subject to the terms of the property owner. If the property is a commercial property, the owner of the private property may include on the sign a statement that only customers may park in the private tow-away zone. In all cases, if it is not apparent which persons may park in the private tow-away zone, the owner of the private property shall include on the sign the address of the property on which the private tow-away zone is located, or the name of the business that is located on the property designated as a private tow-away zone.

C. If the private tow-away zone is not enforceable at all times, the times during which the parking restrictions are enforced;

D. The telephone number and the address of the place from which a towed vehicle may be recovered at any time during the day or night;

E. A statement that the failure to recover a towed vehicle may result in the loss of title to the vehicle as provided in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 4505.101.

In order to comply with the requirements of subsection (a)(1) of this section, the owner of a private property may modify an existing sign by affixing to the existing sign stickers or an addendum in lieu of replacing the sign.

(2) A towing service ensures that a vehicle towed under this section is taken to a location from which it may be recovered that complies with all of the following:

A. It is located within twenty-five linear miles of the location of the private tow-away zone, unless it is not practicable to take the vehicle to a place of storage within twenty-five linear miles.

B. It is well-lighted.

C. It is on or within a reasonable distance of a regularly scheduled route of one or more modes of public transportation, if any public transportation is available in the municipal corporation or township in which the private tow-away zone is located.

(b) (1) If a vehicle is parked on private property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, without the consent of the owner of the private property or in violation of any posted parking condition or regulation, the owner of the private property may cause the removal of the vehicle by a towing service. The towing service shall remove the vehicle in accordance with this section. The vehicle owner and the operator of the vehicle are considered to have consented to the removal and storage of the vehicle, to the payment of the applicable fees established by the Public Service Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, and to the right of a towing service to obtain title to the vehicle if it remains unclaimed as provided in Ohio R.C. 4505.101. The owner or lienholder of a vehicle that has been removed under this section, subject to subsection (c) of this section, may recover the vehicle in accordance with subsection (g) of this section.

(2) If a municipal corporation requires tow trucks and tow truck operators to be licensed, no owner of a private property located within the municipal corporation shall cause the removal and storage of any vehicle pursuant to subsection (b) of this section by an unlicensed tow truck or unlicensed tow truck operator.

(3) No towing service shall remove a vehicle from a private tow-away zone except pursuant to a written contract for the removal of vehicles entered into with the owner of the private property on which the private tow-away zone is located.

(c) If the owner or operator of a vehicle that is being removed under authority of subsection (b) of this section, arrives after the vehicle has been prepared for removal, but prior to the actual removal from the property, the towing service shall give the vehicle owner or operator oral or written notification at the time of such arrival that the vehicle owner or operator may pay a fee of not more than one-half of the fee for the removal of the vehicle established by the Public Service Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, in order to obtain release of the vehicle. That fee may be paid by use of a major credit card unless the towing service uses a mobile credit card processor and mobile service is not available at the time of the transaction. Upon payment of that fee, the towing service shall give the vehicle owner or operator a receipt showing both the full amount normally assessed and the actual amount received and shall release the vehicle to the owner or operator. Upon its release the owner or operator immediately shall move the vehicle so that the vehicle is not parked on the private property established as a private tow-away zone without the consent of the owner of the private property or in violation of any posted parking condition or regulation.

(d) (1) Prior to towing a vehicle under subsection (b) of this section, a towing service shall make all reasonable efforts to take as many photographs as necessary to evidence that the vehicle is clearly parked on private property in violation of a private tow-away zone established under subsection (a) of this section.

The towing service shall record the time and date of the photographs taken under this section. The towing service shall retain the photographs and the record of the time and date, in electronic

or printed form, for at least thirty days after the date on which the vehicle is recovered by the owner or lienholder or at least two years after the date on which the vehicle was towed, whichever is earlier.

(2) A towing service shall deliver a vehicle towed under subsection (b) of this section to the location from which it may be recovered not more than two hours after the time it was removed from the private tow-away zone, unless the towing service is unable to deliver the motor vehicle within two hours due to an uncontrollable force, natural disaster, or other event that is not within the power of the towing service.

(e) (1) If an owner of a private property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with subsection (a) of this section causes the removal of a vehicle from that property by a towing service under subsection (b) of this section, the towing service, within two hours of removing the vehicle, shall provide notice to the law enforcement agency of the municipal corporation concerning all of the following:

- A. The vehicle's license number, make, model and color;
- B. The location from which the vehicle was removed;
- C. The date and time the vehicle was removed;
- D. The telephone number of the person from whom the vehicle may be recovered;
- E. The address of the place from which the vehicle may be recovered.

(2) The chief of a law enforcement agency of the municipal corporation shall maintain a record of any vehicle removed from private property in the chief's jurisdiction that is established as a private tow-away zone of which the chief has received notice under this section. The record shall include all information submitted by the towing service. The chief shall provide any information in the record that pertains to a particular vehicle to a person who, either in person or pursuant to a telephone call, identifies self as the owner, operator or lienholder of the vehicle, and requests information pertaining to the vehicle.

(f) (1) When a vehicle is removed from private property in accordance with this section, within three business days of the removal, the towing service or storage facility from which the vehicle may be recovered shall cause a search to be made of either of the following to ascertain the identity of the owner and any lienholder of the vehicle:

- A. The records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- B. The records of any vendor or vendors, approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, that are capable of providing real-time access to owner and lienholder information.

(2) The towing service or storage facility may search the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System in order to determine the state in which the vehicle is titled. The entity that provides the record of the owner and any lienholder under this division shall ensure that such information is provided in a timely manner.

(3) Subject to subsection (f)(6) of this section, the towing service or storage facility shall send notice to the vehicle owner and any known lienholder as follows:

A. Within five business days after the applicable entity provides the identity of the owner and any lienholder of the motor vehicle, if the vehicle remains unclaimed, to the owner's and lienholder's last known address by certified or express mail with return receipt requested, by certified mail with electronic tracking, or by a commercial carrier service utilizing any form of delivery requiring a signed receipt.

B. If the vehicle remains unclaimed thirty days after the first notice is sent, in the manner required under subsection (f)(3)A. of this section.

(4) Sixty days after any notice sent pursuant to subsection (f)(3) of this section is received, as

evidenced by a receipt signed by any person, or the towing service or storage facility has been notified that delivery was not possible, the towing service or storage facility, if authorized under Ohio R.C. 4505.101(B), may initiate the process for obtaining a certificate of title to the motor vehicle as provided in that section.

(5) A towing service or storage facility that does not receive a signed receipt of notice, or a notification that delivery was not possible, shall not obtain, and shall not attempt to obtain, a certificate of title to the motor vehicle under Ohio R.C. 4505.101(B).

(6) With respect to a vehicle concerning which a towing service or storage facility is not eligible to obtain title under Ohio R.C. 4505.101, the towing service or storage facility need only comply with the initial notice required under subsection (f)(3)A. of this section.

(g) (1) The owner or lienholder of a vehicle that is removed under subsection (b) of this section may reclaim it upon both of the following:

A. Presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle or a lease agreement;

B. Payment of the following fees:

1. All applicable fees established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, except that the lienholder of a vehicle may retrieve the vehicle without paying any storage fee for the period of time that the vehicle was in the possession of the towing service or storage facility prior to the date the lienholder received the notice sent under subsection (f)(1)A. of this section;

2. If notice has been sent to the owner and lienholder as described in subsection (f) of this section, a processing fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

(2) A towing service or storage facility in possession of a vehicle that is removed under authority of subsection (b) of this section shall show the vehicle owner, operator or lienholder who contests the removal of the vehicle all photographs taken under subsection (d) of this section. Upon request, the towing service or storage facility shall provide a copy of all photographs in the medium in which the photographs are stored, whether paper, electronic, or otherwise.

(3) When the owner of a vehicle towed under this section retrieves the vehicle, the towing service or storage facility in possession of the vehicle shall give the owner written notice that if the owner disputes that the motor vehicle was lawfully towed, the owner may be able to file a civil action under Ohio R.C. 4513.611.

(4) Upon presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle or a lease agreement, the owner of a vehicle that is removed under authority of subsection (b) of this section may retrieve any personal items from the vehicle without retrieving the vehicle and without paying any fee. The owner of the vehicle shall not retrieve any personal items from a vehicle if it would endanger the safety of the owner, unless the owner agrees to sign a waiver of liability. For purposes of subsection (g)(4) of this section, "personal items" do not include any items that are attached to the vehicle.

(h) No person shall remove, or cause the removal of any vehicle from private property that is established as a private tow-away zone under this section, or store such a vehicle other than in accordance with this section, or otherwise fail to comply with any applicable requirement of this section.

(i) This section does not affect or limit the operation of Ohio R.C. 4513.60 or Ohio R.C. 4513.61 to 4613.65 as they relate to property other than private property that is established as a private tow-away zone under subsection (a) of this section.

- (j) Whoever violates subsection (h) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (k) As used in this section, “owner of a private property” or “owner of the private property” includes, with respect to a private property, any of the following:
- (1) Any person who holds title to the property;
  - (2) Any person who is a lessee or sublessee with respect to a lease or sublease agreement for the property;
  - (3) A person who is authorized to manage the property;
  - (4) A duly authorized agent of any person listed in subsections (k)(1) to (3) of this section.
- (ORC 4513.601)

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## Detected legislative history

- Ordinances of Sheffield Lake, OH
- ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
- ORDINANCE NO. 116-84
- ORDINANCES OF SHEFFIELD LAKE
- ORDER OF POLICE OFFICER; FLEEING
- Ordinance)
- Ord. 113-79
- ordinance of the City, or any parking or traffic regulation or statute of the State may be towed by the City, if the City deems it appropriate to tow such motor vehicle
- Ord. 20-83
- Ord. 59-92
- order to obtain the release of a motor vehicle towed pursuant to this section, the title owner of the motor vehicle shall be required to produce evidence of ownership of the

motor veh

- Ord. 96-92
- order into storage any motor vehicle, other than an abandoned junk motor vehicle as defined in Ohio R
- order into storage any motor vehicle, other than an abandoned junk motor vehicle, that has been left at the garage or place of storage for a longer period than that agreed upon
- ordering a motor vehicle into storage pursuant to this section, the chief may arrange for the removal of the motor vehicle by a towing service and shall designate a storage facility
- ordinance with that subsection
- ordinance with subsection (d) of this section
- ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section arrives after the motor vehicle has been prepared for removal, but prior to its actual removal from the property, th
- adopted under Ohio R
- order to obtain release of the motor vehicle
- ord of motor vehicles that the chief orders into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section
- ord shall include an entry for each such motor vehicle that identifies the motor vehicle's license number, make, model and color, the location from which it was removed, the date and t
- ord that pertains to a particular motor vehicle to any person who, either in person or pursuant to a telephone call, identifies self as the owner or operator of the motor vehicle and r
- order for the removal and storage of a motor vehicle under subsection (a)(1) of this section shall provide the identity of the law enforcement agency with which the complaint was regi
- ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section may reclaim it upon both of the following:
- ordered into storage under subsection (a)(1) of this section may retrieve any personal items from the motor vehicle without retrieving the vehicle and without paying any fee
- ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section remains unclaimed by the owner for thirty days, the procedures established by Ohio R
- ordinance with subsection (a)(1) of this section or Ohio R
- ordinance with Section 303
- order to comply with the requirements of subsection (a)(1) of this section, the owner of a private property may modify an existing sign by affixing to the existing sign stickers or an
- ordinance with subsection (a) of this section, without the consent of the owner of the private property or in violation of any posted parking condition or regulation, the owner of the p
- ordinance with this section
- ordinance with subsection (g) of this section
- order to obtain release of the vehicle
- ord the time and date of the photographs taken under this section
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- ordinance with subsection (a) of this section causes the removal of a vehicle from that property by a towing service under subsection (b) of this section, the towing service, within two
- ordinance of any vehicle removed from private property in the chief's jurisdiction that is established as a private tow-away zone of which the chief has received notice under this section
- ordinance shall include all information submitted by the towing service
- ordinance that pertains to a particular vehicle to a person who, either in person or pursuant to a telephone call, identifies self as the owner, operator or lienholder of the vehicle, and re
- ordinance with this section, within three business days of the removal, the towing service or storage facility from which the vehicle may be recovered shall cause a search to be made of
- ordinances of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- ordinances of any vendor or vendors, approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, that are capable of providing real-time access to owner and lienholder information
- ordinance to determine the state in which the vehicle is titled
- ordinance of the owner and any lienholder under this division shall ensure that such information is provided in a timely manner
- ordinance with this section, or otherwise fail to comply with any applicable requirement of this section
- Ordinances and/or any other documents that appear on this site may not reflect the most current legislation adopted by the Municipality
- Ordinances should be consulted prior to any action being taken
- Ordinances or other documents posted on this site, please contact the Municipality directly or contact American Legal Publishing toll-free at 800-445-5588

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