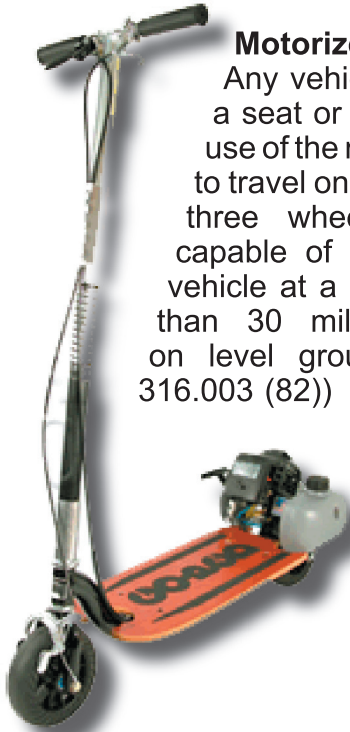


# Types of Vehicles



**Motorized Scooters** - Any vehicle not having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, designed to travel on not more than three wheels, and not capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour on level ground. (F.S.S. 316.003 (82)) Engine power may be by gas or electric power.



**Mini Cycle (Pocket Rocket)** – A motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and having a 50 cubic centimeter engine or less and is approximately 18 inches in height.

## What Parents Need to Know

### According to Florida Law...

Under F.S.S. 322.03, if the **non-licensed** operator of a moped, motorized scooter or mini cycle is caught operating the vehicle on a public roadway, the operator can be issued a **criminal** uniform traffic citation for operating the vehicle without a valid operators license. In addition to the citation, the law also requires a mandatory court appearance.

Under F.S.S. 316.1995, if the operator of a moped, motorized scooter or mini cycle is caught operating the vehicle **under engine power** on a sidewalk, the operator can be issued a uniform traffic citation for driving a vehicle on a sidewalk.

Under F.S.S. 320.02, all motor vehicles operated on the roads of the state of Florida must be registered. However, scooters and mini cycles do not meet federal safety guidelines, so they cannot be properly registered.

Under F.S.S. 322.35, if the parent or ward of an unlicensed minor under the age of 18 allows a minor to operate a motor vehicle, moped or motorized motor scooter upon any highway, the parent or ward is subject to a criminal uniform traffic citation for permitting an unauthorized minor to drive. In addition to the citation, the law also requires a mandatory court appearance.

### What does this mean to you and your child?

Mopeds, motorized scooters and mini cycles can **only** be operated by a child under 16 years of age on private property with the permission of the property owner. This includes your driveway or yard.

Mopeds, motorized scooters and mini cycles are prohibited from being operated on the sidewalks of the state of Florida while under engine power.

Mopeds, motorized scooters and mini cycles are also prohibited from being operated on the property of county parks (bike paths) within Hillsborough County, unless otherwise posted. (Hillsborough County Parks Ordinance 97.14.)

**Moped** - Any vehicle with pedals to permit propulsion by human power, having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels; with a motor rated not in excess of 2 brake horse power and not capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour on level ground. (F.S.S. 316.003 (77))



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Can my child be given a ticket for riding a scooter, moped or mini cycle on a public road?**

Yes, if your child operates one of these vehicles under engine power, he or she must possess a valid driver's license in order to legally operate the vehicle on public roadways.

**Can my child be given a ticket for riding a scooter on the sidewalk?**

Yes, if the scooter is operated by **engine power**, because no vehicle under engine power is permitted on the sidewalk. But if the scooter is operated by foot power, your child is allowed to ride it on the sidewalk, but must yield to pedestrians.

**Can my child ride a scooter, moped or mini cycle on private roadways?**

Yes, unless the community bylaws, deed restrictions or regulations restrict the operation of these vehicles. Private roadways are not covered under F.S.S. 322.03.

**\*Disclaimer** State and local laws are continuously being revised and changed. The legislature regularly reviews the statutes governing motor vehicles in light of new developments, including the emergence of new types of vehicles. Before you operate a vehicle of any kind anywhere other than private property, please consult your local law enforcement agency, the most-recent state statutes, and your city and county ordinances.

## Important Safety Tips

Parents should always supervise their child (anyone under the age of 18) while they are operating a scooter/moped on private property.

Children should **always** wear the proper safety equipment to include a properly fitted helmet meeting U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission standards, elbow pads and kneepads.

Be sure protective gear fits properly and does not interfere with the rider's movement, vision or hearing.

Parents should check to make sure the vehicle is in proper working order before operation. In addition, parents should make sure their child's vehicle hasn't been recalled and has no defects.

These vehicles are intended for operation during daylight hours on smooth surfaces, free of loose gravel, sand, and never on wet, slick surfaces.

Parents should be aware that most children are not familiar with traffic laws or potentially dangerous driving conditions such as blind spots, slick roads and stopping distances.



For further information contact the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office at 247-8115.

Form 6060 3/05

# Motorized Scooter, Moped and Mini-Cycle Safety

