



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release:

July 28, 2026

Contact Emmanuel Priest

607-778-2437

emmanuel.priest@broomecountyny.gov

BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Broome Sheriff Cracking Down on Illegal Motorcycle, Dirtbike, E-bike and E-Scooter Use

(DICKINSON, NY) On Tuesday, the Broome County Sheriff's Office announced a targeted enforcement initiative on illegal motorcycle, dirtbike and e-bike use.

Over the past few months, the Sheriff's Office has received reports and witnessed several examples of dirtbikes, e-motorcycles being operated illegally on public roadways, sidewalks, railroad tracks by juveniles, creating safety concerns for drivers and residents.

"Lives are being put at risk, and we want to address this issue *before* someone gets hurt, not react after a tragedy has taken place, said Sheriff Fred Akshar. "Dirtbikes are not road vehicles, and they simply don't belong on the highway or roads in our community. Nor should they be operated unsafely, by riders aged 15 or younger, or without a helmet. Our BCSO team is charged with the safety and security of our residents, and these guidelines are designed to help keep our roads and communities safe."

The Broome County Sheriff's Office has released an additional guide to New York State guidelines governing E-bikes, E-motorcycles and dirtbikes to help educate the public on lawful use and operation of these vehicles in the community.

Over the next month, a two-phase targeted enforcement operation will commence, focused first on education and warnings for first-time offenders, but shifting to traffic law enforcement via tickets, citations and possible vehicle or bike seizure, depending on the crime. A similar measure was instituted in 2025 by the Broome County Sheriff's Office to target illegal ATV and UTV use.

"We're not after riders lawfully navigating our community's streets and roads," said Akshar. "Our concern is on juveniles treating dirtbikes like cars, joyriding through the streets and putting not only their own lives at risk, but the lives of our fellow residents. If you're not aware of the rules, we're here to help educate you."

General Information:
(607) 778-1911

Fiscal:
(607) 778-2928

Garnishees:
(607) 778-2926

Civil:
(607) 778-2145

Identification:
(607) 778-2924

Records:
(607) 778-2166

“We thank Sheriff Akshar and his entire department for listening and allocating the manpower needed to take our streets back,” said Town of Union Supervisor Robert Mack. “The Town of Union fully supports and applauds this law enforcement crackdown! We have multiple complaints of unsafe behavior, rudeness and blatant disrespect for residents and legal motorists on our streets and roads. The Town parks and ball fields have had serious damages from illegal use of E-Scooters, E-Bikes, Mini-bikes and E-Dirt bikes.”

The Town of Union will be having a public hearing on August 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM to discuss a new law that impose new fines for unlawful use of these vehicles in our parks and town property.

###

Quick Reference based on NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law, Article 48 C

Highlights:

- No DIRTBIKE/MINIBIKE (designed for off-road use) can be operated on a public roadway unless crossing the road at a 90-degree angle to access another piece of property.
- All motorcycles/dirtbikes/ATVs must be registered with DMV. (off-road use must still be registered, but cannot be operated on public roadway)
- Must carry liability insurance.
- MUST have permission from property owner.
- PUBLIC PROPERTY must be clearly posted and approved for ATV/UTV use.

Limited Use Motorcycles (Mopeds, Motor-scooters, etc.)

1. Definition: Self-propelled vehicle with 1 or 2 wheels.
 - a. Class A: Max speed 30-40 mph
 - b. Class B: Max speed 20-30 mph
 - c. Class C: Max speed less than 20 mph

Limited-use motorcycle requirements			
REQUIRED?	CLASS A, OVER 30-40 MPH	CLASS B, OVER 20-30 MPH	CLASS C, 20 MPH OR LESS
Driver license / permit	M/MJ (Learner permit restrictions apply to all permit classes. Junior operator restrictions apply to class DJ and MJ permits and driver licenses. See information about the Graduated License Law .)	any license class (Learner permit restrictions apply to all permit classes. Junior operator restrictions apply to class DJ and MJ permits and driver licenses. See information about the Graduated License Law .)	any license class (Learner permit restrictions apply to all permit classes. Junior operator restrictions apply to class DJ and MJ permits and driver licenses. See information about the Graduated License Law .)
Registration	required	required	required
Headlight on when operating	required	required	required
Helmet & eye protection	required	required	recommended
May operate on	any traffic lane	right-hand lane or shoulder only (except when making a left turn)	right-hand lane or shoulder only (except when making a left turn)
Insurance	required	required	recommended (a Class C moped used as a rental vehicle must be insured)
Inspection	required	recommended	recommended
Title	not required	not required	not required

2. Mini-bike:

- a. Small, motorized device with 2-wheels designed for off-road use.
- b. Does not qualify as UTV, ATV, or motorcycle

3. Dirtbikes:

- a. Definition
 - i. Self-propelled vehicle manufactured for off-highway trails.
 - ii. Does not exceed seventy inches wide and under 1,000 lbs. dry weight.
 - iii. Dirt-bikes are included as ATV's.
- b. Registration:
 - i. Dirtbikes, like ATVs, must be registered with NYS DMV.
 - ii. Out of state registrations acceptable.
 - iii. Assigned registration must be displayed at all times.
- c. Public Roadways:
 - i. Dirtbikes cannot be operated on a public roadway.
 - ii. Exception: Making direct crossing at approximately 90 degrees; must come to complete stop before crossing roadway; must yield to oncoming traffic; in hours of daylight only, unless both front and rear lights are illuminated.
- d. Public lands:
 - i. Dirtbikes can only be operated if public lands have been designated and posted for ATV travel
- e. Private Property:
 - i. Must have consent from owner.
 - ii. Cannot operate on railroad tracks or railroad rights-of-way.
- f. Operating and equipment
 - i. Cannot operate in an intoxicated condition on public lands or private property of another person.
 - ii. Operating brakes, white headlight during darkness, muffler system meeting Federal Standards (40 CFR, 205.166, sub part E).
 - iii. Rider and passenger must wear a protective helmet.

- g. Insurance
 - i. Must have liability insurance when operating on public lands and any private property when not owned by the operator.
 - ii. Must provide proof of insurance upon request by magistrate or authority enforcing law (law enforcement)
- h. Operation by minors:
 - i. Under 16 yrs. of age; only operate on property owner or leased by parent/guardian and must be supervised by person over 18 yrs. old.
 - ii. 14-15 years old must have ATV safety certificate and same guidance as 16 yr. old.
 - iii. Failure to produce safety certificate when riding is presumptive evidence of not having one.
- i. Accidents:
 - i. Any accident resulting in injuries or death of in person or where property damage estimated at \$600 or more; must report accident to law enforcement.

4. Bicycle with and Electrical Assist:

- a. A bicycle that is no more than thirty-six inches wide and has an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty watts, equipped with operable pedals, meeting the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission under 16 C.F.R. Part 1512.1 et seq. and meeting the requirements of one of the following three classes:
 - i. (a) "Class one bicycle with electric assist." A bicycle with electric assist has an electric motor that provides assistance only when the person operating such bicycle is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when such bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.
 - ii. (b) "Class two bicycle with electric assist." A bicycle with electric assist having an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel such bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when such bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.
 - iii. (c) "Class three bicycle with electric assist." Solely within a city having a population of one million or more, a bicycle with electric assist having an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel such bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when such bicycle reaches a speed of twenty-five miles per hour.
- b. A bicycle with electric assist does not qualify for registration as a motorcycle, limited-use motorcycle, moped, or ATV and does not have the same equipment.

5. Lawful Operation of E-Bikes and E-Scooters:

- a. **E-Bikes and E-Scooters** are granted all the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle and the rider of a bicycle. Must abide by NYS traffic laws (stop signs, red lights)
- b. **Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter is not uniform throughout New York State** as cities and towns have extensive local authority, including the ability to prohibit E-Bikes or E-Scooters, require helmets, or wear reflective clothing. Consult with your local jurisdiction if you have questions on laws and ordinances in your area.
- c. **Helmets are not always required but are recommended.** However, helmets are required for 16 and 17-year-olds operating an E-Scooter and Class 3 E-Bike operators in **New York City**.
- d. **Operators of E-Bikes and E-Scooters** must be at least **16** years old.
- e. **E-Bike operators** may carry passengers.
- f. **E-Bikes and E-Scooters are required to use bike lanes** wherever possible, and cannot operate on roads with speed limits of over 30 mph.

- g. **When operating on trails or bike paths**, consult with your local municipal or park authorities on their regulations, as they may differ.
- h. **You cannot operate E-Bikes or E-Scooters on sidewalks** except as authorized by local law or ordinance.
- i. **E-Bike operators must ride in single file** and cannot double up as traditional bicycles can.

###

Link to Guidelines on BCSO website:

<https://broomecountyny.gov/sites/default/files/dept/sheriff/pdfs/2026%20BCSO%20Guide%20to%20E-Bikes%2C%20E-Motorcycles%2C%20E-Scooters%2C%20Dirtbikes.pdf>

Link to DMV information on motorcycle operation: <https://dmv.ny.gov/motorcycle-manual>