



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BEHIND THE STAR

SHERIFF MALCUM J. "JAMIE" PATTON



Laws for Golf Cart and Utility Vehicle Use in Union County

This is part two in a series of articles written to help explain these vehicles and the Ohio Laws that govern their use. In part one, we discussed the definitions of what is and is not a golf cart and a utility vehicle. In part two, we will dive into the specifics of inspection and operation of golf carts and utility vehicles.

To review, a golf cart is by definition an under-speed vehicle, which means it's a three or four wheeled vehicle, with a top attainable speed on a paved level surface of not more than twenty miles per hour and it weighs less than three thousand pounds. A utility vehicle is a self-propelled vehicle designed with a bed, principally used for the purpose of transporting material or cargo in connection with construction, agricultural, forestry, grounds maintenance, lawn and garden, materials handling, or similar activities. Both golf carts and utility vehicles must pass a vehicle equipment inspection before they can legally operate in Union County. The Sheriff's Office inspects golf carts and utility vehicles for Union County residents only. Golf carts and utility vehicles passing the inspection will be issued an inspection document and an inspection sticker. The inspection sticker must be applied to the windshield of the golf cart or utility vehicle in the lower right corner of the windshield. Owners of the golf carts or utility vehicles can request a title for their vehicle at the Union County Clerk of Courts Title Office, located at 940 London Avenue, Suite 1400, in Marysville. Proof of ownership in the form of a certificate of origin, bill of sale, or previous owner title is required for issuance of a new title. Once the inspection has been completed and a title obtained, owners can get license plates for their golf cart or utility vehicle by visiting the Union County Deputy Registrars License Agency at 940 London Avenue, Suite 1200, in Marysville.

Items that will be inspected and are required for golf cart or utility vehicle operation in the State of Ohio include: two working tail lights, two working brake lights, two working headlights, turn signals, adequate brakes and a braking system, a rear-view mirror to reflect the operator a view of the public street or highway to the rear, a windshield to prohibit injury from any debris from the roadway, a properly working steering mechanism, and appropriate tires that are free of major bumps, bulges, breaks, or any condition that would be cause for unsafe conditions.

The inspection and operation of golf carts and utility vehicles is governed by the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code and may be further regulated by city or village ordinance. Golf carts and utility vehicles must be inspected, titled, and registered in order to operate on a public street or property. The person operating a golf cart or utility vehicle must have a valid operator's license and have proof of insurance for the golf cart or utility vehicle. Operators of golf carts and utility vehicles must follow all Ohio Motor Vehicle Laws. Those operating golf carts or

utility vehicles that do not comply with the Ohio Revised Code subject themselves to possible traffic citation and impoundment at their expense.

Once licensed, golf carts and utility vehicles can only be operated on a street or highway having an established speed limit not greater than thirty-five miles per hours and only on such streets or highways where a local authority has granted permission for such operation in accordance with section 4511.215 of the Ohio Revised Code. In Union County, this means that golf carts cannot be operated on county roads, townships roads, State Routes, and US Routes where the speed limit is thirty-five miles per hour or higher. It is up to local municipalities to authorize or regulate the use of golf carts and utility vehicles on their village or city streets. For example, the City of Marysville has an ordinance in place that allows licensed golf carts and utility vehicles on certain city streets with a speed limit of twenty-five miles an hour or less. Golf carts and utility vehicles are not permitted on several streets in Marysville including Main Street, Fifth Street, Maple Street, Delaware Avenue, Collins Avenue, and Ninth Street. Golf carts and utility vehicles are also not permitted on sidewalks, walking paths, and multi-use paths. For more information on golf cart and utility vehicle ordinances and operation in a village or city in Union County, please contact the applicable village or city administration.

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