

Ask the Chief of the Anna Police: A weekly column allowing readers access to useful information about law enforcement issues in the Anna area.

This column is the personal opinion of Kenny Jenks and is based on his 30+ years of policing experience. It is not necessarily the official opinion of the City of Anna or the Anna Police Department and is not legal advice. If you wish to Email, include your name and address in the correspondence. Your information will be edited before sending it to print.

Hello Readers,

I receive between 75-100 Emails each week from persons who would like to converse about the activities of the police in Anna and surrounding areas. I can't respond to or print all of them, but I do read them!

Happy Summer Readers! Do you know where your kids are and what they are doing?

Q: *Kevin from Oak Hollow writes: I was wondering if ATV's (3 wheelers and 4 wheelers) are legal to be driven on subdivision streets in Anna? Here in Oak Hollow we have several undeveloped lots so it isn't uncommon for people to bring their dirtbikes and ATV's out and run them around. Lately however instead of bringing them out in trailers we have had lots of ATV's going up and down our streets (Oak Hollow to Hickory Trl). This really isn't an issue with the exception that some of the riders appear pretty young and I have concerns with my daughter riding her bike with these things coming around the corner.*

I appreciate you letting me know and all the great work you and your team do to keep Anna safe.

Hello Kevin,

I am 50 years old. During my lifetime it has never been legal for ATV's (or any other unregistered vehicles like dirt bikes) to be driven on the public streets in Texas. Adults shouldn't do it; parents shouldn't allow it.

The types of riding you mention in your Email do not qualify as "legal" ATV operation on public streets. The only time it is legal is when the operators are engaged in agricultural activity or are in the process of maintaining roads, public rights of way, or utility easements. In some cases, an ATV can cross public roadways @ a right angle to get from one property to another. In addition, unless these ATV'ers own the vacant lots or properties they are riding on or have permission from the actual owners of the properties, they are probably trespassing. It is within the property owners' rights to use the criminal justice system to punish anyone trespassing on their property once notice is given to stay off.

The Texas Legislature has made it legal for some electric vehicles (Neighborhood

Electric Vehicles) to be driven on the street and some resemble ATV's. This law requires that the driver be licensed and the vehicle has to meet certain requirements:

(20-35 mph, seat belts, head and taillights, a windshield, a parking brake, turn signals, rear-view mirrors, brake lights, reflectors, and a valid 17-digit Vehicle Identification Number).

There are also some restrictions on the types of roadways they can be driven upon; do your research for the laws in Texas.

Thanks for writing. Maybe your Email will bring this matter to the attention of the public in our area.

If you have a question, please email: kjenks@annatexas.gov