



SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP

P.O. Box 464
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

Police Department

Phone (269) 424-3025

Fax (269) 424-3858

Michael Grice Chief of Police

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Question: My husband saw on the news last night that golf carts were allowed on the county roads in the state of Michigan. Is this true?

Answer: [MCL 257.657a](#) authorizes a village or city of fewer than 30,000 people to allow the operation of golf carts on the streets of that village or city by resolution, and sets forth the requirements and restrictions in doing so. Similarly, a township of fewer than 30,000 people is also authorized to allow this under certain circumstances unless disapproved by the county board of commissioners.

NOTE: The County of Cass has not approved the use of golf carts, or gator type vehicles for use on their County Roads.

County roads are all roadways maintained by the Cass County Road Commission.

Previously, it was possible to equip, register and insure your golf cart to be road legal as a low speed vehicle. However, the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) has announced that it will no longer process assembled vehicle title applications for vehicles manufactured as a golf cart and has requested law enforcement personnel to refuse or deny any request to complete a [TR-54](#) Vehicle Number and On-Road Equipment Inspection for a golf cart. Additional information may be found on the MDOS [website](#).

Golf carts that are currently titled and registered for on-road use will retain its current title and registration. Information previously published in the [Traffic Services Section Field Update #21](#) which suggests golf carts may be titled and registered under certain circumstances is no longer accurate.

If the golf cart is not currently titled, registered, and insured for on-road use, and is not within one of the cities, villages or townships that has allowed on road use, it may only be operated on a highway under very limited circumstances if it meets the definition of an ORV as provided in [MCL 324.81101](#) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. The limited circumstances, such as crossing a street or highway at a right angle for the purpose of getting from one area to another, can be found in [MCL 324.81122](#). Additionally, [MCL 324.81131](#) authorizes local municipalities to pass an ordinance allowing the operation of ORV's on streets within the municipality and sets forth the requirements and restrictions in doing so.



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Question: I have a Polaris Ranger and want to know if I can operate it on the road?

Answer: Vehicles manufactured as an ORV are not designed for on-road use and the Manufacturer Certificate of Origin of such vehicles will state that it was built for off-road use only. The Michigan Department of State has determined that a vehicle manufactured as an ORV cannot be modified and titled as an assembled vehicle for on-road use because even if the required equipment listed on the Departments [TR-54](#) form is added, it does not change the original manufacturer's configuration as an ORV. Additional information may be found on the MDOS [website](#).

ORVs that are currently titled and registered for on-road use will retain its current title and registration. Information previously published in the [Traffic Services Section Field Update #21](#) which suggests such ORV's may be titled and registered under certain circumstances is no longer accurate.

If this type of ORV is not currently titled, registered and insured for on-road use, it may only be operated on a highway under very limited circumstances if it meets the definition of an ORV as provided in [MCL 324.81101](#) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. The limited circumstances, such as crossing a street or highway at a right angle for the purpose of getting from one area to another, can be found in [MCL 324.81122](#). Additionally, [MCL 324.81131](#) authorizes local municipalities to pass an ordinance allowing the operation of ORV's on streets within the municipality and sets forth the requirements and restrictions in doing so.



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257.215 Vehicle unregistered or without certificate of title; operation; misdemeanor, exception.

Sec. 215.

It is a misdemeanor for any person to drive or move or for an owner knowingly to permit to be driven or moved upon any highway any vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder which is not registered or for which a certificate of title has not been applied for or for which the appropriate fee has not been paid when and as required hereunder, except as provided in subsection (b) of section 217.

257.325 Causing or permitting unlicensed minor to drive.

Sec. 325.

It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or knowingly permit any minor to drive a motor vehicle upon a highway as an operator, unless the minor has first obtained a license to drive a motor vehicle under the provisions of this chapter.

These laws will be strictly enforced by the Silver Creek Township Police and the Cass County Sheriff's Department.