

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 451 of 1994**

**324.81129 Operation of ORV or ATV by child; requirements; ORV information and safety advice; training program and performance testing; course instruction; ORV safety certificates; rules; exceptions; additional requirements.**

Sec. 81129. (1) Subject to subsection (17), a parent or legal guardian of a child less than 16 years of age shall not permit the child to operate an ORV unless the child is under the direct visual supervision of an adult and the child has an ORV safety certificate in his or her immediate possession.

(2) Subject to subsection (17), a parent or legal guardian of a child less than 12 years of age shall not permit the child to operate an ATV with 4 or more wheels unless the child is not less than 10 years of age and is on private land owned by a parent or legal guardian of the child. This subsection does not apply to the operation of an ATV used in agricultural operations.

(3) A parent or legal guardian of a child less than 16 years of age shall not permit the child to operate a 3-wheeled ATV.

(4) Subject to subsection (17), the owner or person in charge of an ORV shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by a child less than 16 years of age unless the child is under the direct visual supervision of an adult and the child has an ORV safety certificate in his or her immediate possession.

(5) Subject to subsection (17), the owner or person in charge of an ATV with 4 or more wheels shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by a child less than 12 years of age unless the child is not less than 10 years of age and is on private land owned by a parent or legal guardian of the child. This subsection does not apply to the operation of an ATV used in agricultural operations.

(6) The owner or person in charge of a 3-wheeled ATV shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by a child less than 16 years of age.

(7) The owner or person in charge of an ORV shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by an individual who is incompetent to operate the vehicle because of mental or physical disability.

(8) The department shall implement a comprehensive program for the training of ORV operators and the preparation and dissemination of ORV information and safety advice to the public. The program shall provide for the training of youthful operators and for the issuance of ORV safety certificates to those who successfully complete the training and may include separate instruction for each type of ORV.

(9) In implementing a program under subsection (8), the department shall cooperate with private organizations and associations, private and public corporations, the department of education, the department of state, and local governmental units. The department shall consult with ORV and environmental organizations and associations in regard to the subject matter of a training program and performance testing that leads to certification of ORV operators.

(10) The department may designate a qualified individual to provide course instruction and to award ORV safety certificates.

(11) The department may promulgate rules to implement subsections (8) to (10) and (17).

(12) Subject to subsection (17), a child who is less than 16 years of age shall not operate an ORV unless the child is under the direct visual supervision of an adult and the child has an ORV safety certificate in his or her immediate possession.

(13) Subject to subsection (17), a child who is less than 12 years of age shall not operate an ATV with 4 or more wheels unless the child is not less than 10 years of age and is on private land owned by a parent or legal guardian of the child. This subsection does not apply to the operation of an ATV in agricultural operations.

(14) A child who is less than 16 years of age shall not operate a 3-wheeled ATV.

(15) Subject to subsection (17), when operating an ORV, a child who is less than 16 years of age shall present the ORV safety certificate to a peace officer upon demand.

(16) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an operator who is less than 12 years of age shall not cross a street, county road, or highway. An operator who is not less than 12 years of age but less than 16 years of age may cross a street, county road, or highway or operate an ORV pursuant to section 81131(9) if the operator has an ORV safety certificate in his or her immediate possession and meets any other requirements under this section for operation of the vehicle.

(17) The requirement that a child possess an ORV safety certificate to operate an ORV, and the requirement that a child who is less than 12 years of age not operate an ATV with 4 or more wheels unless the child is not less than 10 years of age and is on private land owned by a parent or legal guardian of the child, do not apply if all of the following requirements are met:

(a) The child is participating in an organized ORV riding or racing event held on land not owned by this state.

(b) The child's parent or legal guardian has provided the event organizer with written permission for the child to participate in the event.

(c) The event organizer has not less than \$500,000.00 liability insurance coverage for the event.

(d) A physician or physician's assistant licensed or otherwise authorized under part 170 or 175 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17001 to 333.17084 and 333.17501 to 333.17556, or a paramedic or emergency medical technician licensed under part 209 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20901 to 333.20979, is present at the site of the event or available on call.

(e) The event is at all times under the direct visual supervision of adult staff of the event organizer and a staff member serves as a flagger to warn participants if another participant is injured or an ORV is inoperable in the ORV operating area.

(f) Fencing or another means of crowd control is used to keep spectators out of the ORV operating area.

(g) If the event is on a closed course, dust is controlled in the ORV operating area and the riding surface in the ORV operating area is otherwise properly prepared.

(h) Three-wheeled ATVs are not used by participants.

(i) Any ATVs used by participants are equipped with a side step bar or comparable safety equipment and with a tether kill switch, and the tether is used by all participants.

(j) Each participant in the event wears a crash helmet approved by the United States department of transportation, a protective long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, boots, and protective gloves.

(k) Any other applicable requirements of this part or rules promulgated under this part are met.

(18) If a child less than 16 years of age participates and is injured in an organized ORV riding or racing event, the organizer of the event shall, within 30 days after the event, submit to the department a report on a form developed by the department. The report shall include all of the following information, as applicable:

(a) Whether any participant less than 16 years of age was killed or suffered an injury resulting in transportation to a hospital as a result of an ORV accident at the event.

(b) The age of the child.

(c) Whether the child had been issued an ORV safety certificate.

(d) The type of ORV operated.

(e) A description of the accident and injury.

(19) The requirements of this section are in addition to any applicable requirements of section 81131(13).

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2003, Act 111, Eff. Oct. 1, 2003;—Am. 2008, Act 164, Imd. Eff. June 19, 2008;—Am. 2008, Act 240, Imd. Eff. July 17, 2008;—Am. 2013, Act 119, Imd. Eff. Sept. 25, 2013;—Am. 2013, Act 249, Imd. Eff. Dec. 26, 2013;—Am. 2018, Act 237, Eff. Sept. 25, 2018.

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