

County Ordinances - Rules of the Beach

Michael K. Adkinson, Walton County, Florida

Here are the most common beach violations and their associated monetary fines:

Dogs on the beach: All dogs are prohibited on public beaches except dogs owned by Walton County real property owners or permanent residents who have obtained a permit and who maintain the animal on a leash.

This permit will allow leashed dogs on the beach between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. of the following day during daylight savings time and between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. of the following day during non-daylight savings time. Owners of dogs shall be responsible for the clean up of their dogs' waste. **Fine: \$20.00**

Driving on the beach without a permit.

Vehicles may only be driven in designated areas with a proper permit. Driving in non-designated areas is a violation of this. **Fine: \$200.00**

Driving on the beach after hours.

Vehicles may not be driven on the beach after 10:00pm. **Fine: \$75.00**

Glass Containers. No one on the beach is allowed to possess or utilize any glass or ceramic bottle or container. **Fine: \$25.00**

Soliciting and Canvassing. No person is permitted to solicit or canvass on the beach, except those operating with a beach vendor permit. **Fine: \$100.00**

Littering on the beach. Persons will not discard or otherwise dispose of or abandon any trash, garbage, bottles, containers, cans, dead fish or parts thereof, charcoal briquettes or ashes, or any other litter on the beach, except in designated containers for that purpose. **Fine: \$200.00**

Bonfires or Campfires on the beach. Fires on the beach are strictly prohibited except with a permit. No fires will be allowed within 100 feet of a marked turtle nest or within 50 feet of vegetation line or within 100 feet of any habitable structure. **Fine: \$200.00**

Sound Amplification (Noise Control.) NO audio device, such as loudspeakers, television, radio, compact disc, tape, record player, or musical instrument, except equipment used by law enforcement, rescue or beach safety personnel, shall be used on the beach and water bodies in any manner, that can be heard by a person using normal hearing facilities, at a distance of 100 feet or more from the source of the sound. **Fine: \$100.00**

Camping. It is unlawful to camp overnight on the beach. **Fine: \$100.00**

Obstructions on the beach. Beach chairs, umbrellas, tents, and other such personal articles on the beach will not be in such a manner that they interfere with beach maintenance, nesting turtles, or emergency vehicles. **Fine: \$100.00**

Indecent Exposure (Nudity.) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly appear, or cause another person to appear, nude in a public place or in any other place which is readily visible to the public. **(Criminal Violation—Misdemeanor.)**

Fishing. Fishing is prohibited in the Gulf of Mexico after having been warned by any law enforcement officer that the health and safety of bathers is being endangered.

Swimming on Double Red Flag. The double red flag indicates that the water is OFF LIMITS for the public. The beach is still open but entering the water, regardless of the reason or circumstance under double red, is strictly prohibited. **Fine: \$100.00**

Operating a vessel.

- Inside of 350ft from any shoreline or dock in the Choctawhatchee Bay & Bayous above idle speed. **Fine: \$100.00**
- Inside of 750ft from the shoreline of Gulf of Mexico (or inside the second sand bar) above idle speed. **Fine: \$100.00**
- Launching Personal Watercraft from any State or County Property. No personal watercraft is permitted to be launched from state or county property. **Fine: \$100.00**

Removal of Sand or Water. No sand or water may be removed from the beach except for permitted construction under guidelines established by the county. **Fine: \$100.00**