



Right-of-Way (ROW) Sign Removal Program

Do you know about Fairfax County's rules for Signs in the ROW?

- Fairfax County removes signs that are illegally placed on or along roads DESIGNATED in the Illegal Sign Removal Program. This includes signage for political campaigns, advertising, realtors, and more.
- Signs will be regularly picked up every week between Tuesday and Thursday by the Sheriff's Community Labor Force. **Signs will not be cleaned up based on public complaints.**
- After the county removes a sign, it will be stored for five calendar days at the I-66 Transfer Station where it may be reclaimed. Signs will be destroyed after five days. However, VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway groups may collect signs at any time on their designated roads, and they may destroy these signs.

What is the State Maintained "Right-of-Way"?

- This is a term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to a highway or transportation use. This area does not belong to individual property owners and must be kept clear for motorist and pedestrian safety and for road maintenance by VDOT crews.
- ROW widths vary depending on the type of roadway and the width of pavement. A typical two-lane road can have a ROW width of 50' while a four-lane road can have a ROW width of 100' – 300'. Due to this large variance in ROW width it is important to establish the exact ROW widths prior to installing any signs or objects near a roadway.

Turn Over



Taken from Virginia Code § 33.2-1224: Signs or advertising on rocks, poles, etc., within limits of highway; civil penalty.

Any person who in any manner (i) paints, prints, places, puts or affixes any sign or advertisement upon or to any rock, stone, tree, fence, stump, pole, mile-board, milestone, danger-sign, guide-sign, guidepost, highway sign, historical marker, building, or other object lawfully within the limits of any highway or (ii) erects, paints, prints, places, puts, or affixes any sign or advertisement within the limits of any highway shall be assessed a civil penalty of \$100. Each occurrence shall be subject to a separate penalty. All civil penalties collected under this section shall be paid into the Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund. Signs or advertisements placed within the limits of the highway are hereby declared a public and private nuisance and may be forthwith removed, obliterated, or abated by the Commissioner of Highways or his representatives without notice. The Commissioner of Highways may collect the cost of such removal, obliteration, or abatement from the person erecting, painting, printing, placing, putting, affixing or using such sign or advertisement. When no one is observed erecting, painting, printing, placing, putting, or affixing such sign or advertisement, the person, firm or corporation being advertised shall be presumed to have placed the sign or advertisement and shall be punished accordingly. Such presumption, however, shall be rebuttable by competent evidence. In addition, the Commissioner or his representative may seek to enjoin any recurring violator of this section. The Commissioner of Highways may enter into agreements with any local governing body authorizing local law-enforcement agencies or other local governmental entities to act as agents of the Commissioner for the purpose of (i) enforcing the provisions of this section and (ii) collecting the penalties and costs provided for in this section. Any such agreement may provide that penalties and costs collected pursuant to such agreement shall be paid as agreed.

VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway

- The Adopt-a-Highway program provides an opportunity for residents, businesses or civic groups to participate in the clean-up of litter along public rights-of-ways. Information on how to get involved is provided below:

<http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-default.asp>

- If residents notice an increase in litter on a particular section of road, they can notify VDOT at 800-PRIDEVA (800-774-3382), e-mail adoptahighway@VirginiaDOT.org or contact the Adopt-a-Highway coordinator in their area.

For More information:



**Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance
12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035**

**Phone: 703-324-SIGN, TTY 711
Web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code**



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.

This Fairfax County, VA Publication (published September 2016) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.