



RESTRICTIONS

- A person must have landowner permission to enter legally posted land for outdoor recreation purposes.
- A person must have landowner permission to enter agricultural land for outdoor recreation purposes.
- A person may not remain on private land after being told to leave.

DEFINITIONS

- "Outdoor Recreation" means any activity including hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, camping, and engaging in winter sports which is conducted primarily for the purposes of pleasure, rest or relaxation and is dependent on or derives its principal benefit from natural surroundings.
- "Agricultural land" is land that:
1) is plowed or tilled; 2) has standing crops or crop residues; 3) is within a maintained fence for enclosing domestic livestock; 4) is planted to native or introduced grasses or hay land; or 5) is planted to short-rotation woody crops (hybrid poplar and other woody plants that are harvested for their fiber within 15 years of planting).

TRESPASSING IS ILLEGAL

Any entry onto the private property of another without permission is considered trespass. Certain types of trespass have criminal penalties as outlined below. Additionally, landowners may be able to pursue court action against trespassers whether the property is posted or not. Persons trespassing may be issued a citation, assessed a fine, or prosecuted.

PENALTIES

- Violating the Minnesota Trespass Law can make you subject to either civil or criminal penalties.
- Civil penalties are: 1) \$50 for the first violation; 2) \$200 for the second violation in a three-year period; 3) \$500 and loss of every license and registration being used for a third or subsequent violation in a three-year period; and 4) \$50 for unauthorized removal of a sign posted under this law.
- Criminal penalties are at least a misdemeanor for violation of this law. In addition, it becomes a gross misdemeanor to:
 - Knowingly disregard signs prohibiting trespass,
 - Trespass after being told not to do so,
 - To violate the trespass law twice in a three-year period,
 - To intentionally and without permission enter a livestock area that has been properly posted as a bio-security area,
 - To intentionally expose domestic animals (farm-raised deer, game birds, fish; or other farm animals listed by the MN. Dept. of Ag rule) to an animal disease. Violators of this provision are also liable for civil damages equal to three times the value of the exposed animals.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PHONE #

DNR CONSERVATION OFFICER #

IMPORTANT NOTE - AGRICULTURAL LAND DEFINITION

All planted grassland and hayland and all hybrid poplar and other woody plants that are harvested for their fiber within 15 years of planting meet this definition, including grasslands enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), or the state Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program. These lands do not need to be posted to prevent unauthorized trespass. However, land that is brush or trees, including CRP, CREP, and RIM Reserve that is brush or trees, (except short-rotation woody crops as defined above) does not meet this definition and must be posted or verbal notice given to trespassers for criminal enforcement to occur.

POSTING REQUIREMENTS

To be legally posted, land must have signs:

- posted once each year that state "no trespassing" or similar terms either: 1) along the boundaries every 1,000 feet or less, or in wooded areas where boundaries are less clear, at intervals of 500 feet or less; or 2) at the primary corners of each parcel of land and at access roads and trails at points of entrance to each parcel, except corners only accessible through agricultural land need not be posted.
- With lettering at least two inches high and the signature or the legible name and telephone number of the owner, occupant, lessee, or authorized manager. An unauthorized person may not post land with signs prohibiting outdoor recreation or trespass.
- Notification to stay off private land, authorization to remove a sign posted to prevent trespass, or legal permission to enter private land or to take wild animals near occupied buildings or corrals, may only be given by the owner, occupant, or lessee.
- Bio-security posting requirements include the placement of a sign at least 11 inches square at each roadway to the premise with wording such as "Bio-security measures are in force. No entrance beyond this point without authorization."



LANDOWNER LIABILITY (MINN. STAT. 604A.23)

An owner who gives written or oral permission for the use of the land for recreational purposes without charge does not, by that action:

- extend any assurance that the land is safe for any purpose,
- confer upon the person the legal status of an invitee or licensee to whom a duty of care is owed, or
- assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to the person or property caused by an act or omission of the person.



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