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Signs in the Right-of-Way

Regardless of their purpose, signs placed in the public road right-of-way are illegal (ORC 5589.33) and are subject to immediate removal by local authorities. This policy is strictly enforced to prevent driver distractions, maintain visibility, and ensure the safety of road maintenance crews. This applies equally to all signs – campaign, real estate, business, advertising, garage sales signs, etc. We do not discriminate; a sign is a sign.

Why? Because signs in the right-of-way can:

- block visibility for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists
- interfere with mowing and routine street maintenance
- create conflicts with underground utilities
- become litter when not picked up

Signs must be placed on private property (with owner's permission), which is typically located behind the line of utility poles. Furthermore, signs cannot be attached to utility poles, trees, or official traffic signs. Illegally placed signs are collected during regular maintenance or following public complaints. Confiscated signs are available for pick up at the Allen County Engineer's Office for one week. Disposal will occur after 7 calendar days.

We appreciate everyone's help in keeping Allen County safe and clean of debris.

Questions? Call our office at 419-228-3196.