

COUNTY LITTER LAWS

What is Litter?

Sec. 26-121 *Litter* means garbage, refuse, rubbish and all other waste material.

- *Garbage* means putrescible animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.
- *Refuse* means all putrescible and nonputrescible solid waste.
- *Rubbish* means nonputrescible solid waste consisting of both combustible and noncombustible waste.

What Acts Constitute Littering?

Sec. 26-122. Actions constituting littering.

A person commits an offense who:

- (1) *Knowingly* places, drops or throws litter on any public or private property without permission and does not immediately remove it;
- (2) *Negligently* places or throws glass or other dangerous substances on or adjacent to water to which the public has access for swimming or wading, or on or within 50 feet of a public highway; or
- (3) *Negligently* discharges sewage, minerals, oil products or litter into any public waters or lakes within this county.

Sec. 26-123. Hauling litter.

- (a) Any motor vehicle which transports litter . . . or any material likely to fall or be blown off onto the highways shall be required to have such material either in an enclosed space or fully covered by a tarpaulin.
- (b) If such motor vehicle is a noncommercial, not-for-hire pickup truck, the provisions of this section shall be construed to be complied with if the material on such noncommercial, not-for-hire pickup truck is secured in such a way as to reasonably ensure it will not fall or be blown off the vehicle.
- (c) All other pickup trucks and other motor vehicles are required to comply with the provisions of subdivision (a) of this section.

Art. 3 Sec. 3.90. Posting Signs.

Sec. 3.90.02. F. No sign shall be placed in any public right-of-way except publicly owned signs and those signs approved by the Knox County highway department.

Sec. 3.90.02. H. 6. Temporary sign advertising a political candidate shall not be over 32 square feet in size, shall not be displayed for more than 30 days and shall be removed within five days of the election.

Sec. 3.90.05. A. Temporary signs shall not be erected or otherwise fixed to any pole, tree, stone, fence, building, structure or any object within the right-of-way of any street.

Sec. 26-124. Presumption of offense.

If litter is discovered on any public property other than public property designated for the disposal of litter, or if litter is discovered on the private property of a person who has not given permission for the disposal of litter, and the litter bears the name of a natural person, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the natural person has committed the offense of criminal littering.

What are the Consequences of Littering?

Sec. 26-126. Penalty.

Violation of this section shall be punishable by a penalty of up to \$1,000.00, with each day that the litter remains upon the ground constituting a separate offense.