

ESCONDIDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Crime Suppression Division



SIGNAGE GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESSES

THE PURPOSE OF POSTING A SIGN

Business property is defined as private property open to the public. This means that the public has the right to enter and remain on your business property unless their specific activity is expressly prohibited. This requires that you inform the public of any activity that you do not wish to take place upon your property. This may be done either verbally or by posting signs.

There are certain types of activity which the police are unable to deal with as a criminal matter, unless signage is posted on the property forbidding that activity. Some examples of this are "No Loitering," "No Trespassing," "No Drinking or Possession of Alcohol" "No Skateboarding," "No Bicycling," and "No Rollerblading," just to name a few.

REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 553 of the California Penal Code specifies that any sign posted on private property for the purpose of preventing specified unwanted activity must be at least one foot square and have lettering that is at least 2" in height.

The signs need to be posted along the property so that they can be clearly seen when entering the property from any direction and also throughout the property to avoid the defense that the suspect "couldn't see a sign".

It is recommended that the signs be posted at a height that is clearly visible but difficult to reach to prevent them from being stolen or vandalized.



We also recommend they be fastened securely using high strength epoxy, screws, or nuts and bolts.

WHAT TO DO IF A VIOLATION OCCURS

The mere posting of signs is in itself a good deterrent. However, to truly stop unwanted activity, you must be willing to follow through. This means that you must be willing to sign a Citizen's Arrest and to press charges against the offender. You may be asked to testify in court.

When you have posted your signs and then see someone violating them, you should immediately call the Escondido Police Department at (760) 839-4722. Be prepared to give them the following information:

- Your name, address, phone number, and reason for calling. Advise the dispatcher what the unwanted activity is that is being committed by the suspect and let them know that you are willing to prosecute.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS?

Please call the Business Liaison Officer at (760) 839-4948 if you have any questions. The Business Liaison Officer is available to come out to your business and assist you with any matters.