

## ATV Use on Private Property

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August 14, 2019 | 2019-R-0174

### Issue

What is the penalty in Connecticut for operating an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on private property without the property owner's permission? How does this compare to penalties in nearby states?

### Summary

The penalties for unauthorized ATV use on private property in Connecticut and nearby states range from a \$50 fine in Connecticut to a fine of up to \$1,000 in Massachusetts. In addition, a violator in New York may be sentenced to prison for up to 15 days for a first offense, up to 45 days for a second offense, and up to 90 days for a third or subsequent offense.

Table 1 compares the penalties in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

**Table 1: Penalty for ATV Use on Private Property in Select States**

State	Penalty	Citation
Connecticut	<p>Infraction punishable by a \$50 fine (plus associated fees and surcharges, the total charge equals \$117).</p> <p>The ATV owner or operator is responsible to the landowner for any property damage that resulted from using the ATV on the property.</p>	<a href="#">CGS §§ 14-387, -388 &amp; 51-164m</a>
Massachusetts	Fine between \$250 and \$1,000.	<a href="#">Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 90B §§ 20, 26 &amp; 34</a>

<i>State</i>	<i>Penalty</i>	<i>Citation</i>
New York	<p>First offense is punishable by a fine of up to \$250, up to 15 days in prison, or both.</p> <p>Second offense within 18 months is punishable by a fine of up to \$400, up to 45 days in prison, or both.</p> <p>Third or subsequent offense within 18 months is punishable by a fine or up to \$550, up to 90 days in prison, or both.</p>	<a href="#">N.Y. Veh. &amp; Traf. Law § 2403(3)</a>
Rhode Island	Fine of up to \$100.	<a href="#">R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-3.2-4.1</a>
Vermont	\$300 fine and the ATV owner's license may be suspended or revoked.	<a href="#">Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23 §§ 3506 &amp; 3507</a>

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