

Lesson Plan: Exploring County Ordinances

Student Handout –Some Fairfax County Ordinances

Did you know that there are a *lot* of rules here in Fairfax County? And not just in the schools! There are rules for when you can work on your car, footwear in the metro, and how big the Texaco sign is. What's up with all these rules? Sometimes it might seem like there are too many, but after you think about it a lot of them make sense.

Look over each of the *ordinances* on this page – an ordinance is another name for a local government rule – and think about why each was written. What problem is it designed to solve? Who would like the rule? Or oppose it? Do *you* think these ordinances are necessary?

1. The total number of children at a home child care facility at any one time, including any children of the owner or operator who are less than ten years of age, shall not exceed eight.
2. It shall be unlawful for any professional solicitor or charitable solicitor to telephone or otherwise solicit the public except between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.
3. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or exit or remain in a metro station or ride on escalators or elevators in a metro station with bare feet.
4. The owner of any animal or fowl which has died shall forthwith have its body cremated or buried.
5. It is a violation to repair, rebuild, or modify any motor vehicle or other mechanical device in the outdoors between the hours of 9:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. the following day.
6. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle while using earphones on or in both ears.
7. Any person who for compensation shall tell fortunes or act as a clairvoyant or practice palmistry or phrenology or act as a spirit medium or astrologist shall pay an annual license tax of \$500.
8. The area of a sign identifying motor vehicle fuel prices shall not exceed a maximum area of 20 square feet. The sign may be located on an existing freestanding sign, existing light standard, or new post or pole; but in no event shall the sign exceed a height of 8 feet.
9. The making by a barber, cosmetologist, or employee in any hairdressing establishment of shaving lather in a wash basin for use in serving a patron is prohibited.
10. Any restaurant having a seating capacity for 100 patrons or more, not including seats in the bar or lounge area, or in any separate room of such facility during such time as the entire room is being used for a private function, shall designate no less than 25% of the seating capacity as a no-smoking area.

Some of these Fairfax County ordinances have been paraphrased to make them easier to understand. They are effective as of June 1998.