

We have received many requests from businesses



and property owners regarding the proper wording and signage for "No Trespassing" postings. There is actually a section in the California Penal Code which addresses this. Per PC 553, the requirements are as follows:

PC§ 553. Definitions for Trespassing or Loitering

The following definitions apply to this article only:

- (a) "Sign" means a sign not less than one (1) square foot in area and upon which in letters not less than two inches in height appear the words "trespassing-loitering forbidden by law," or words describing the use of the property followed by the words "no trespassing."
- (b) "Posted property" means any property (b) specified in Section 554 which is posted in a manner provided in Section 554.1.
- (c) "Posted boundary" means a line running from sign to sign and such line need not conform to the legal boundary or legal description of any lot, parcel, or acreage of land, but only the area within the posted boundary shall constitute posted property, except as otherwise provided in subdivision (e) of Section 554.1.

(Amended by Stats. 1988, Ch. 273, Sec. 1.)

As worded in section (a), any wording to the effect of "no trespassing" is permissible. Other restrictions, such as "No Loitering", or "No Skateboarding" may also be added as long as the above requirements are met.

The following section describes as what distances the signs must be posted:

PC§ 554.1. Posting Against Trespassing or Loitering

Any property described in Section 554 may be posted against trespassing and loitering in the following manner:

- (a) If it is not enclosed within a fence and if it is of an area not exceeding one (1) acre and has no lineal dimension exceeding one (1) mile, by posting signs at each corner of the area and at each entrance.
- (b) If it is not enclosed within a fence, and if it is of an area exceeding one (1) acre, or contains any lineal dimension exceeding one (1) mile, by posting signs along or near the exterior boundaries of the area at intervals of not more than 600 feet, and also at each corner, and, if such property has a definite entrance or entrances, at each such entrance.

(c) If it is enclosed within a fence and if it is of an area not exceeding one (1) acre, and has no lineal dimension exceeding one (1) mile, by posting signs at each corner of such fence and at each entrance.

(d) If it is enclosed within a fence and if it is of an area exceeding one (1) acre, or has any lineal dimension exceeding one (1) mile, by posting signs on, or along the line of, such fence at intervals of not more than 600 feet, and also at each corner and at each entrance.

(e) If it consists of poles or towers or appurtenant structures for the suspension of wires or other conductors for conveying electricity or telegraphic or telephonic messages or of towers or derricks for the production of oil or gas, by affixing a sign upon one or more sides of such poles, towers, or derricks, but such posting shall render only the pole, tower, derrick, or appurtenant structure posted property.