



Sonoma County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff-Coroner Steve Freitas

No Trespassing Signs

California Penal Code Section 602 PC (and its related sections) penalize over 30 acts that constitute criminal trespassing.

The most common acts that California trespassing laws prohibit are:

- entering someone else's property with the intent to damage that property
- entering someone else's property with the intent to interfere with or obstruct the business activities conducted thereon
- entering and "occupying" another's property without permission
- refusing to leave private property after you've been asked to do so

The most commonly used California Penal Code Sections are:

602(k) and 602(l) Trespassing

(k) Entering any lands, whether unenclosed or enclosed by fence, for the purpose of injuring any property or property rights or with the intention of interfering with, obstructing, or injuring any lawful business or occupation carried on by the owner of the land, the owner's agent or by the person in lawful possession.

(l) Entering any lands under cultivation or enclosed by fence, belonging to, or occupied by, another, or entering upon uncultivated or unenclosed lands where signs forbidding trespass are displayed at intervals not less than three to the mile along all exterior boundaries and at all roads and trails entering the lands without the written permission of the owner of the land, the owner's agent or of the person in lawful possession, and

(1) Refusing or failing to leave the lands immediately upon being requested by the owner of the land, the owner's agent or by the person in lawful possession to leave the lands, or

(2) Tearing down, mutilating, or destroying any sign, signboard, or notice forbidding trespass or hunting on the lands, or

(3) Removing, injuring, unlocking, or tampering with any lock on any gate on or leading into the lands, or

(4) Discharging any firearm.

Recommended Sign Styles

The style of sign you choose to display should be determined by the environment you are attempting to protect. You should also reference the proper California Penal Code. They all serve different purposes under the law and in deterring crime. You may also consider posting the signs in Spanish.

Recommended Sign Size

It is reasonable to say that by placing a no trespassing sign on your property, you are trying to deter someone from entering your property. The size or frequency of the signs should reflect the environment you are attempting to protect. The Sheriff's Office recommends a sign no smaller than eight and one half inches tall by eleven inches wide. Larger signs such as 2.5 feet by 3.5 feet may provide a greater level of deterrence where appropriate. By law, signs **MUST AT MINIMUM** be placed at each entrance to your property. Signs should be visible from all entrances to your property to be effective and enforceable.

Example of a basic NO TRESPASSING sign:

NO TRESPASSING

Lettering no less than 1" in height

Displayed at all entrances to property and not less than 3 to the mile along all exterior boundaries



California Penal Code Section that applies to property

Name and number for local law enforcement agency