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COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #535830

Ohio Revised Code

Section 2923.24 Possessing criminal tools.

Effective: December 30, 2026
Legislation: House Bill 519 - 136th General Assembly

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Electronic device or tool" means a device or tool designed or adapted for use in unlocking or turning on a motor vehicle and does not include a previously issued or activated electronic card, key, or other electronic device assigned to the lawful owner of a motor vehicle.

(2) "Theft offense" has the same meaning as in section 2913.01 of the Revised Code.

(B) No person shall possess or have under the person's control any substance, device, instrument, or article, with purpose to use it criminally.

(C) Each of the following constitutes prima-facie evidence of criminal purpose:

(1) Possession or control of any dangerous ordnance, or the materials or parts for making dangerous ordnance, in the absence of circumstances indicating the dangerous ordnance, materials, or parts are intended for legitimate use;

(2) Possession or control of any substance, device, instrument, or article designed or specially adapted for criminal use;

(3) Possession or control of any substance, device, instrument, or article commonly used for criminal purposes, under circumstances indicating the item is intended for criminal use.

(4) Possession or control of an electronic device or tool under circumstances indicating an intent to commit a theft offense that involves a motor vehicle.

(D)(1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of possessing criminal tools.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2)(a) or (b) of this section, possessing criminal tools is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(a) If the circumstances indicate that the substance, device, instrument, or article involved in the offense was intended for use in the commission of a felony, possessing criminal tools is a felony of the fifth degree.

(b) If the circumstances indicate that an electronic device or tool was involved in the offense, possessing criminal tools is a felony of the fourth degree.