

## **OVERVIEW OF FLORIDA STATE TRESPASS LAWS AS IT RELATES TO PUNTA RASSA**

Most people know that they should not enter or remain on someone else's property without permission. However, the law stipulates that when asked to leave and do not, it becomes a Florida criminal trespass, and then the Sheriff can site the trespasser and, under some circumstances, can make an arrest.

If you approach someone WHICH IS NOT RECOMMENDED, do not get into a conflict with the trespasser. Only inform them in a friendly manner that they are trespassing and ask the person to leave. Suppose they do not go, call the Sheriff. If you can't determine if they are trespassers, owners, or guests, which in most cases are hard to distinguish, call anyway. The obvious signs are if they drive in, carrying coolers, etc.

Please do not attempt to stop a trespasser from leaving by blocking their vehicle. You will be arrested for doing so. Do not display a loaded or unloaded firearm to a trespasser. You will be arrested.

The Lee County Sherriff gave several examples of owners getting hurt by the trespassers because of a hostile confrontation at a recent meeting.

The Sheriff, by law, cannot take names, addresses, or disclose a vehicle license plate number if the trespasser agrees to leave, making it hard to arrest the second trespass occurrence. However, if it is determined that there is a second trespass and you can identify the trespasser to the Sheriff, they will be cited for trespassing.

The Sherriff stated that this is not a high-crime area. No crimes to the property or owners have ever been reported, so patrols are limited here but were emphatic about calling when you see a trespasser. They will respond but mention that trespassers are not the highest priority of calls they receive.

**PLEASE PUT THE NON-EMERGENCY LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S PHONE NUMBER ON YOUR PHONE. (239) 477-1000 – Call if you suspect a trespasser.**

This overview was put together to understand better the Sheriff's Department and the Punta Rassa's obligation in dealing with trespassers. We hope that this has been helpful.

Respectfully,  
President, Linda Lacy