

# Why is there a boot in my car: *BOOTING:* 101

## Trap

Phil was in town from New Jersey to visit his sister, Jessica in West Palm Beach. Jessica was out of town on a quick business trip, and so she provided Phil with guest gate pass and gate codes ahead of time to enter the gated community. Phil arrived late that evening and parked on the street to leave room for Jessica to park her own car upon her return. The next morning, Phil looked outside and noticed his vehicle had a boot/immobilization device. Phil contacted the management company. He was informed that his car was booted. Phil called his sister to let her know what was happening. Jessica told Phil there was no overnight parking allowed in the community after 2:00 a.m. Jessica apologized to Phil, and said she inadvertently forgot to warn him.

## Tips

Be aware that homeowner or condominium associations can develop and enforce their own parking rules that must follow state and county booting laws. Here are some practical tips:

- Many residential communities ban overnight parking, and the ban may apply to the place and/or time that you've parked.
- Association residents should obtain and understand their parking regulations. It is important for residents to inform their guests about the association parking rules including details about when vehicles can be immobilized/booted.
- County law requires associations to contract with a licensed immobilization/booting company to remove booting device in violation of their parking rules.
- Be cautious when entering a community. Look for "Immobilization/Booting" signs posted on all egress. They must provide the name of the immobilization/booting company and a 24/7 phone number.
- Immobilization/Booting companies are not permitted to boot vehicles from property without the written approval of the association.
- Associations are liable to the vehicle owner for costs and damages if the parking rules were followed, but the vehicle was booted in the property anyway.
- When a vehicle is booted in private property, booting charges must follow the fee structure established by Palm Beach County.

**For more information contact Palm Beach County Consumer Affairs**



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