

HANDOUT 1

No Vehicles in the Park

The town of Beautifica has a lovely park in its center. The city council wishes to preserve the feeling of nature, undisturbed by city noise, traffic, pollution and crowding. It is a place where people can go to find grass, trees, flowers and quiet. In addition, there are playgrounds and picnic areas. In order to make sure the park stays as it is, the city council passed a law, called an ordinance. At all entrances to the park, the following sign is posted: **"NO VEHICLES IN THE PARK."**

The law seems clear, but some disputes have arisen over the interpretation of the law. The definition of vehicle is *something on wheels that carries people or things*. You are a judge and the following cases have come before you. Decide how you would interpret the law to determine whether the law has been violated in each of the following cases.

- a. John Smith lives on one side of the town and works on the other side. To save 10 minutes, he drives through the park.
- b. There are many trash barrels in the park so that people may deposit all litter, thereby keeping the park clean. The sanitation department drives their trucks in to collect the trash.
- c. An ambulance has a dying car accident victim in it and is racing to the hospital. The shortest route is through the park, so the ambulance drives through.
- d. Two police cars are chasing a suspected bank robber. One cuts through the park, so she can get in front of the suspect's car and trap him between the patrol cars.
- e. Some children are riding their bicycles in the park.
- f. Some disabled persons in motorized wheelchairs are coming to the park.
- g. Mr. Thomas is jogging in the park with his baby in a jogger baby stroller. This stroller allows Mr. Thomas to jog or run quite fast at the same time as he is pushing the stroller.
- h. A monument to the town's citizens who died in the Vietnam War is being built. A tank, donated by the government, is placed in the park as part of the monument.