

CHAPTER 20.10**VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS****SECTIONS:**

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20.10.010 SCOPE AND PURPOSE. Virtual Currency Kiosks are frequently used by criminals to manipulate, intimidate, and threaten victims to use those kiosks to send cash. Without stronger federal, state, or local regulations, there is no way to stop criminals from using virtual currency kiosks to victimize members of the community. This chapter prohibits the placement and use of virtual currency kiosks within the county as necessary and appropriate to prevent dangers to public health and safety, and to preserve public morality, health, peace and good order within county limits.

Date Passed: July 7, 2026

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

[Ord. 666 (2026) § 1]

20.10.020 AUTHORITY. Pursuant to the legislative powers conferred by the Washington State Constitution and Washington State statutes, Benton County, by and through its elected board of commissioners, has authority to make such ordinances as are necessary for public health, safety, and welfare of the community.

[Ord. 666 (2026) § 2]

20.10.030 DEFINITIONS. The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the definitions in the RCW indicate a different meaning.

"Virtual Currency" means a digital representation of value used as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value, but does not have legal tender status as recognized by the United States Government.

"Virtual Currency Kiosk" means an electronic terminal located in an area accessible to the general public which acts as a mechanical agent of the Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator, enabling the exchange of Virtual Currency for money, bank credit, or other virtual currency.

"Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator" means a person or entity that:

knowingly permits the use or installation of a virtual currency kiosk on property owned, leased or controlled by the person or entity;

operates a Virtual Currency Kiosk within the county; or

owns a Virtual Currency Kiosk that is either located or operated within the county.

[Ord. 666 (2026) § 3]

20.10.040 VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to host, allow, operate, permit, locate or place a Virtual Currency Kiosk within the unincorporated areas of Benton County. All Virtual Currency Kiosks existing in Benton County as of the Effective Date of this Ordinance must be removed within 60 calendar days after the Effective Date.

[Ord. 666 (2026) § 4]

20.10.050 EXCEPTIONS. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to regulate or restrict a transfer of Virtual Currency. This Section does not apply to any Virtual Currency Transfers that are conducted without the use of a Virtual Currency Kiosk and does not intend to interfere with other types and methods of Virtual Currency Transfers.

[Ord. 666 (2026) § 5]

20.10.060 PENALTY. Violations of this section may result in a class 1 civil infraction issued to the Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator. In addition, the county may cancel or revoke the business license or registration of any Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator in violation of this chapter.

[Ord. 666 (2026) § 6]

20.10.070 EFFECTIVE DATE. This chapter shall take effect and be in full force August 1, 2026.

[Ord. 666 (2026) § 6]