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**WOOD COUNTY ORDINANCE #221
ALARMS**

Chapter 221 .01 PURPOSE AND GENERAL POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish regulations, standards and controls relating to the type, use, and installation of police alarm devices. The Wood County Sheriffs Department Alarm Ordinance is established to create procedures that all users of an alarm coming into the Wood County Sheriffs Department follow. Procedures establish guidelines for alarm users and provide for penalties when alarm systems are activated by human error or malfunction. It is designed to enhance our response to crimes in progress as well as reduce the incidents of false alarms received by the Wood County Sheriffs Department.

Chapter 221 .02 DEFINITIONS

- (1) Alarm System.** An assembly of equipment installed for the purpose of notifying someone of urgent intention to either an intrusion and/or a robbery to said location.
- (2) Alarm User.** Any business or other citizen in the Wood County Sheriffs Department jurisdiction that installs or maintains an alarm system. A person is considered an alarm user when the Wood County Sheriffs Department receives notification of the alarm signal coming from their property. How the signal is reported to the Wood County Sheriffs Department does not determine whether or not the person is an alarm user.
- (3) Automatic Dialing Service.** Automatic Dialing Service is an alarm system which creates and sends a pre-recorded message that is transmitted directly over phone lines to the Wood County Sheriffs Department indicating the existence of an emergency situation.
- (4) On-Premise Alarm.** This type of alarm generates a signal on or about the premises to notify that an intrusion is occurring. This is a visual or audible alarm signal that does not connect directly to any answering panel or service.

Chapter 221 .03 ALARM PERMITS

All persons or entities installing or maintaining an alarm system shall first obtain a permit from the Wood County Sheriffs Department. An alarm permit will be granted only after

satisfactory completion of an application which must be submitted to the Wood County Sheriffs Department for approval. A permit will be granted by the Wood County Sheriffs Department after approval of the application and payment of the appropriate fee as set forth below.

The application for alarm permit must explain what type of alarm will be utilized along with a description of how the alarm works.

If at any time the alarm user does not comply with the regulations set forth in this policy, the alarm permit may be revoked by the Sheriff or his designee.

(1) Permit Fees:

A. Signal received through an outside alarm service - \$25.00.

B. On-premise alarm - \$25.00.

Chapter 221 .04 CENTRAL ANSWERING STATION ALARM

This type of alarm is programmed directly to a private central answering station. This station is responsible for the monitoring of said alarm and notifying the Wood County Sheriffs Department when an alarm is transmitted from the user to the service.

The central answering station will advise the Wood County Sheriffs Department of which particular alarm user had transmitted the signal. They will, to the best of their ability and equipment potential, advise us of which area on the premise is experiencing the intrusion. If this is a robbery in progress alarm, they will give us whatever information is available to them at the time.

The central answering station will be responsible for maintaining a current contact notification list for each user. The station will contact a keyholder or other representative to meet the Wood County Sheriffs Department responding deputies to determine cause of alarm. Representatives must be advised to respond to every alarm location in a very timely fashion.

Any alarm user utilizing a private central answering station is subject to all of the regulations located within this ordinance.

Chapter 221 .05 AUTOMATIC DIALING SERVICE PROHIBITION

No automatic dialing service with a pre-recorded message shall terminate on any of the telephone lines into the Wood County Sheriffs Department.

No person will be allowed to utilize an alarm system which creates a pre-recorded message that is transmitted directly over phone lines to the Wood County Sheriffs Department.

No person will be granted a permit with this type of system under this ordinance. Quite simply, these types of systems are prohibited within Wood County Sheriffs Department jurisdiction.

Chapter 221 .06 ON-PREMISE ALARMS

Visual or audible alarms that do not connect to an answering panel or service will be referred to herein as "On-Premise Alarms." This type of alarm generates a signal on or about the premises to notify that an intrusion is occurring. If this signal is reported to the Wood County Sheriff's Department, the other conditions set forth in this Ordinance apply.

Chapter 221 .07 FALSE ALARMS

A false alarm means a signal from an alarm system resulting in a response by the Wood County Sheriffs Department when an emergency situation does not exist.

- (1) False alarms exceeding two in a calendar year are violations and will result in a citation.
- (2) An alarm will not be counted as a false alarm if it was due to a power outage or power interruption.

Chapter 221 .08 DEPUTY RESPONSE TO ALARMS

The deputy responding to an alarm call shall determine whether or not the transmission will be recorded as a false alarm. All incidents involving an alarm will necessitate a final determination or disposition to be recorded on the Wood County Computer. Deputies will rely on this computer information to determine whether or not a user will be assessed

a forfeiture for a false alarm.

Chapter 221 .09 ALARM TESTING

It is the responsibility of the alarm user and/or central answering station to notify the Wood County Sheriffs Department of intentions to test an alarm system. In the event of an alarm test and no prior notification of testing exists, the alarm test shall be considered a "false alarm."

Chapter 221 .10 PENALTY SECTION

(1) Violations of Section 221.03: Utilizing an alarm without a permit:

- A. The first violation will result in a written warning.
- B. All subsequent violations will result in a forfeiture of \$100.00 plus costs.

(2) Violations of 221.05 - Automatic Dialing Prohibition:

- A. The first violation will result in a written warning.
- B. All subsequent violations will result in a forfeiture of \$100.00 plus costs.

(3) **Violations of Section 221.07/False Alarms:** False alarms will be recorded on the County Computer. Statistics will be available to the Deputy assigned to respond to an alarm. If the Deputy determines that the user has exceeded the allowed number of false alarms within a 12-month period, a citation will be issued using the following schedules. A 12- month period in this policy will be defined as a calendar year.

- A. The first two violations under this section will result in a written warning to the alarm user.
- B. Third and subsequent violations: \$10.00 plus cost.

Above guidelines are subject to change by the Wood County Sheriff without notice.