

NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

The Neighborhood Standards Division of Community & Economic Development is responsible for inspecting ordinance violations that cover the exterior, non-structural maintenance of the property.

This brochure explains some common ordinance complaints such as:

- Inoperable and abandoned vehicles
- Vehicles parking on the grass
- RV, trailer and boat storage
- Excessive garbage
- Fencing
- Tall grass
- Signs and banners
- Other Zoning Ordinances

City of Rockford
425 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
815-987-5600
815-967-6933 (fax)
815-987-5718 (TDD)



Excellence in Services

Home-Occupied Business

Businesses run in a residential home are allowed within City of Rockford limits as long as the business does not interfere with the peace and quiet of a residential community. City of Rockford's Zoning Ordinance Article 53 states:

No permit is required for any home business consisting entirely of communication via correspondence, telephone, fax or computer modem, and that involves no deliveries to the property by semi-tractor/trailer trucks, and where no clients, customers or students come to the premises for goods and services.

Home Business permits may be obtained from Construction & Development Services located on the first floor of City Hall.

General Regulations

- Home businesses may be conducted only within the residence and not accessory structures.
- No more than 20% of the total floor area of the dwelling unit may be used for both the business and related storage.
- Retail sales are prohibited except for the sale of goods or products produced on the premises.
- Only permanent residents of the home may be employed in the conduct of the business. Department of Children and Family Services-licensed group and family day-care homes are exempt from this limitation.
- Business hours for customer services are limited to between 8:00am and 8:00pm.
- There shall be no exterior indication of a home business and no exterior storage of materials to be used in conjunction with a home business.
- Any sign is limited to a 2 square-foot sign indicating only the name of the resident and the address.
- Deliveries by semi-tractor/trailer trucks are prohibited.
- Home businesses shall produce no offensive noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odors, heat, electrical interference or stray lighting beyond the walls of the dwelling unit.
- Home businesses that attract clients or students for services are not permitted in multifamily dwelling units of 3 units or more.
- Total traffic generation for home businesses is limited to 20 vehicles per day.

Home-Occupied Business, continued

Prohibited types of home businesses:

- Any repair of motorized vehicles; including the painting or repair of trucks, trailers, boats or small engine repair
 - Construction businesses or landscaping businesses that provide the storage of goods & materials to be used in the operation of business
 - Kennels and stables
 - Bird keeping facilities
 - Barber shops or beauty shops with more than one chair
 - Dancing schools
 - Restaurants
 - Funeral chapels or homes
 - Crematoria
 - Mausoleums
 - Medical or dental clinics
 - Any entertainment or assembly use
 - The sale of firearms or ammunition
 - Warehousing
 - Welding or machine shops
 - Animal hospitals
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Garage Sales

Residents of the City of Rockford are allowed up to 2 garage sales per year. Garage sales can last up to three consecutive days in a row. No permit is required for a garage sale.

Garage sale signs

Garage, Yard or Rummage Sale signs cannot be larger than 2 feet by 2 feet (4 square feet). Signs can only be displayed on private property for no more than 4 days in any 6 month period. Such signs shall be removed the day following the sale.

Garage, Yard or Rummage Sale Signs are limited to one per zoning lot in residential districts. Such signs are not permitted on property not used for residential purposes.

Balloons, banners or other such advertising devices are not allowed under City ordinances.

Questions regarding garage sales? Contact Neighborhood Standards, 815-987-5566.

Get More Information

Neighborhood Standards was formed in 1998 by the City of Rockford to offer residents a single point of contact for all environmental issues and complaints.

If you would like to make a complaint or have a question regarding a City Ordinance, contact information is listed below. Our website contains forms for listing complaints as well as this brochure and more violation information.

All complaints are kept confidential. Your name will not be asked. When inspectors respond to a complaint they generally inspect the surrounding neighborhood for other violations.



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