



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Menominee County, Wisconsin

W3269 Courthouse Lane
P.O. Box 190
Keshena, WI 54135-0190

Phone: 715-799-3357
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Sheriff@co.menominee.wi.us

Sheriff Rebecca Smith

Chief Deputy David Kristof

Dear Menominee County Resident,

Winter 2019

The transition into 2019 brings big changes for our office. The first change we would like to share with you is our new records management system, Zuercher. Within this system we can store a multitude of information. If you do not have a security system this information does not apply.

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that most of you have secondary/weekend properties in Menominee County. We also recognize that you have security systems of some sort and we are in favor of that. Security alarm systems serve as useful deterrents to crime. The presence of an alarm system not only reduces your chance of being burglarized but can minimize any loss in the event of a burglary.

In the past our office has experienced inadequacies with security system monitoring centers. It is common for these centers to have minimal information and many times it is out of date. Current information is crucial for us to provide you with proper service. This Zuercher system is able to store all the information we need to contact you or a keyholder in an even that your property needs immediate attention.

Enclosed you will find a registration form that our office has generated to collect your valuable information to store in house, in Zuercher.

The second change we would like to share with you is an update to an out dated ordinance from 1992. This ordinance directly pertains to those of you that have residential alarms. This includes fire, burglary, security and whether those alarms are monitoring a shed, camper, garage or home.

The Menominee Board of Supervisors approved this ordinance in January 2019. It specifically requires you to register your alarm system with our office. There is a \$25 yearly registration fee that should be included with the enclosed/attached form and **sent back no later than March 31st, 2019**. Per Ordinance #69 registration and yearly fee is mandatory.

We strongly recommend that you review the Alarm Ordinance #69 on the Menominee County's website-
www.co.menominee.wi.us – departments – sheriff tab.

Thank you in advance for this consideration, please feel free to contact the Sheriff's Office with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Smith
Sheriff #1201



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Residential Alarm Registration Form

\$25.00 Yearly fee

Please complete this information as accurately as possible so we can provide the best service possible for you and your property

Your Information (Please provide your full name and DOB so we can enter you properly into our system) **PRINT**

Name (s): _____ Phone: _____
(date of birth/s)

Home Address: _____

Alarm Information (Property within Menominee County)

Address: _____

Alarm Monitoring Company: _____ Phone: _____

The Menominee County Sheriff's Department strongly suggests you designate several people as "Key-holders". Key-holders are close friends, relatives, or neighbors you have chosen to hold and keep a key for your residence along with disarming/resetting information for your alarm system. Key-holders are crucial in the event the Sheriff's Department needs access to your property and you are not available.

Primary Key-holder Information (If possible please provide full name and DOB for Key-holders)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
(date of birth/s)

Home Address: _____

(Key holder #2)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
(date of birth/s)

Home Address: _____

(Key holder #3)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
(date of birth/s)

Home Address: _____

**For some residents it is common practice to hide a door key on the property. In the past, property owners have provided our agency the location of hidden keys and/or written instructions for disarming/resetting alarm systems. This information will be used as a last resort in the event you or your key-holders were not available. If you would like to leave this information with us please provide it below.

Describe location of hidden key:

Alarm disarming/resetting code or procedure:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Any permit issued hereunder is done so on the express condition that the permittee release Menominee County, its departments, agents, officers and/or employees from any and all liability for any losses or damages of any nature whatsoever which result in any way from any failure of equipment, negligent act or omission by agents, servants or employees of Menominee County and/or any failure of the permittee's alarm system.

Please return completed form and \$25.00 yearly fee to: Menominee Co. Sheriff's Office
(check payable to: Menominee Co. Sheriff's Office) P O Box 190
Keshena, WI 54135

COUNTY OF MENOMINEE

ORDINANCE NO. 69

SECURITY ALARM SYSTEMS



WHEREAS, Menominee County adopted an ordinance to regulate and control private security alarm systems effective May 29, 1992 numbered as County Ordinance No. 32; and

WHEREAS, the Menominee County Board of Supervisors has determined that it is appropriate to update and amend the previously adopted ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, for the reasons stated herein Menominee County hereby ordains as follows:

1. Purpose and Intent.

That it is necessary to establish minimum standards and regulations pertaining to alarms and alarm systems. The intent of this ordinance is to minimize the time spent by county departments, specifically its Sheriff's Department, responding to false alarms and to provide a more efficient operation of emergency services for the county.

2. Applicability and Enforcement.

This ordinance shall be applicable to all alarm systems and users subject to the jurisdiction of the Menominee County Sheriff's Department. The provisions of this ordinance shall be implemented and enforced by deputies of the Menominee County Sheriff's Department of the county through education, information, verbal and written warnings and issuance of citations where appropriate.

3. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Alarm business means any business in which the owners or employees engage in the activity of altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, selling, or servicing alarm systems.

Alarm system means any assembly of equipment or devices which by means of its design is intended to warn of a hazard or emergency situation or incident to

which emergency services are expected to respond. The term "alarm system" shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) *Burglar alarm system* means a system signaling an entry or attempted entry into the area protected by the system.
- (b) *Holdup alarm* means a system in which the signal transmission is initiated by the direct action of the person attacked, an observer of the attack or after the fact of an attack.
- (c) *Fire alarm system* means those systems which monitor temperature, humidity, or any other condition.
- (d) *Medical alarm system* means any system in which the signal transmission is initiated by the direct action of the person requiring service or by an observer acting for the person requiring service.
- (e) *Supervisor alarm system* means any system used to monitor conditions not otherwise described herein.

If the system emits an audible signal or a signal by means of a lighting device, it shall be within the definition of an alarm system and shall be subject to this ordinance.

Alarm user means the owner, lessee, or subscriber to any alarm system, as defined herein, who is responsible for all fees related to the installation, maintenance, removal, or operation of the system.

Answering service means a telephone answering service providing among its services, the service of receiving on a continuous basis through trained employees, emergency signals from alarm systems, and thereafter immediately relaying the message by live voice to the communications center.

Automatic dialing alarms means an alarm system which automatically sends over regular telephone lines, by direct connection or otherwise, a pre-recorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of an emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.

Emergency services means any providers of service under the authority of the county which includes, but is not limited to: Sheriff's Department personnel, fire department personnel, medical or ambulance personnel, or personnel of the emergency government for the county.

False alarm means the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or the negligence of the owner or lessee of an alarm system or of his employees or agents or other undetermined causes. The term "false alarm" also includes the intentional activation of an alarm system when an actual emergency condition does not exist.

Emergency services means any providers of service under the authority of the county which includes, but is not limited to: Sheriff's Department personnel, fire

department personnel, medical or ambulance personnel, or personnel of the emergency government for the county.

4. Private Alarm User Registration.

(a) *Required.* Any private alarm user in the county shall be required to register alarms with the Menominee County Sheriff's Office. No person may operate or activate an alarm system without registering with the county. Registration is due January 1st and must be received by the Sheriff's Office no later than January 31st of each year. New private alarm users must register alarm systems prior to activation. The installation, maintenance, and operation thereof shall be at the expense of the property owner.

(b) *Fees.* Fees for initial registration and renewal, under this ordinance, shall be in the amount of \$25.00 unless otherwise stated in the county fee schedule. All fees shall be due upon submission of registration form.

(c) *Renewal.* The private alarm user registration shall be renewable annually thereafter on January 1st and is subject to provisions of this ordinance.

5. Alarm Business Registration.

(a) *Required.* Any alarm business in Menominee County shall be required to register with the Sheriff's Office at least 30 days prior to the date that the vendor will be allowed to engage in activities within the county. No person shall operate, solicit, or otherwise engage in the operation of an alarm business in the county unless proper registration has been completed and approved as provided herein.

(b) *Fees.* Fees for an alarm business' initial registration and renewal, under this ordinance, shall be in the amount of \$35.00 unless otherwise stated in the county fee schedule. All fees shall be due upon submission of registration form. New business alarm registrations completed during the year shall be prorated by the quarter year.

(c) *Renewal.* The alarm business registration shall be renewable annually thereafter on January 1st and is subject to the provisions of this ordinance.

6. Authority.

The county shall be the registering authority herein and grants a limited, revocable registration to any applicant while in compliance with the provisions of this ordinance. Approval of applications must be obtained from the Menominee County Sheriff's office prior to issuance of a new registration or prior to renewal of an existing registration.

7. Denial, Revocation, and Appeal.

(a) Registration may be revoked or denied by the Menominee County Sheriff's office for among others, the following conditions:

- (1) The registration application contains a statement of material fact, in which statement is found to be false.
- (2) A registrant has repeatedly failed to comply with the provisions of this ordinance.
- (3) An alarm system which repeatedly activates and causes to be transmitted false alarms.
- (4) Repeated failure of the registrant, his agent, or alarm service representative to respond when notified by the sheriff of the county of their alarm being activated and under the provisions of false alarm section.
- (5) A registrant or his/her agent found to have knowingly caused the intentional activation of an alarm system when no criminal activity, fire or other emergency existed.
- (6) Any other reason as may be required for public safety purposes.

(b) An appeal may be made upon denial or revocation of registration, within 30 days, in writing, to the Public Safety Committee. Upon receipt of the appeal, the Public Safety Committee shall set a time, date, and place for the appeal to be heard.

8. False Alarm Fees; Penalties.

(a) *False alarm penalties.* For the first false alarm in a calendar year, resulting in the dispatching of emergency service personnel, the alarm user or his/her agent shall be given a verbal warning. For the second false alarm in a calendar year, resulting in the dispatching of emergency service personnel, the alarm user shall receive an administrative warning, in written form. For the third and all subsequent false alarms within the calendar year, an administrative fee, in the form of a written citation, will be imposed.

(b) *Administrative Fees; Charges.* For the third and subsequent false alarms in a calendar year, resulting in the dispatching of emergency services personnel, the alarm user, or his/her agent, shall be subject to an administrative charge not to exceed in the following schedule unless otherwise determined by the Menominee County Board of Supervisors:

- (1) For the third false alarm in a calendar year, the registrant or his/her agent shall be subject to an administrative charge not to exceed \$40.00.
- (2) For the fourth false alarm in a calendar year, the registrant or his/her agent shall be subject to an administrative charge not to exceed \$75.00.
- (3) For the fifth and subsequent false alarm thereafter, during the same calendar year, the registrant or his/her agent shall be subject to an administrative charge not to exceed \$100.00.

(c) *Penalty; Non-Compliance.* In addition to false alarm fees, the penalty for failing to comply with any provision of the ordinance, unless otherwise so stated, shall be a fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$200.00.

(d) That following the third false alarm every violation thereafter shall be deemed a public nuisance and the continuation of and repeated violations of this ordinance may be enjoined and the maintenance thereof may be abated pursuant to Section 59.69(11) Wis. Stats.

(e) *Penalty; Intentional Alarm Activation.* Any person, who knowingly causes the intentional activation of an alarm system when no criminal activity, fire or other emergency exists, shall be subject to an administrative charge of no less than \$500.00 up to and including criminal prosecution.

(f) Every person, firm or corporation, including those doing work for

others, who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a forfeiture and penalty as described herein for each violation plus the cost of prosecution. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a distinct and separation violation of this ordinance and as such forfeitures shall apply accordingly. The Sheriff's Department shall refer violations of this ordinance to the Corporation Counsel, when necessary, who shall prosecute such violations.

9. Automated Dialing Devices.

No person shall interconnect any automatic dialing device to any emergency services telephone line and no person shall permit such devices to remain interconnected. Such devices may be connected to an answering service. Relaying of messages must be done on a person-to-person basis.

10. Testing.

No alarm system relayed through intermediate services to the communication center or Sheriff's Department will be tested in order to determine emergency services response without first obtaining permission for such test from the appropriate emergency services responder.

11. Contact Person.

The alarm user will provide the communications center with a current listing of the name and telephone number of at least two other persons who can be reached at any time, day or night, and who are authorized to enter the premises in order to reset or deactivate an alarm system. If either of the designated contact person(s) refuse to cooperate with an official of the Sheriff's Department, they shall be subject to penalties for violation of this ordinance, in the amount set forth herein.

12. Notification of interruptions in service.

When alarm service to an alarm business subscriber is disrupted for any reason by the alarm business, the alarm business shall promptly notify the subscriber by telephone that the service is no longer being provided.

13. Finding regarding false alarms; Intentional false alarms.

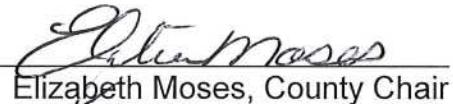
(a) Each false alarm requires the response of public safety personnel involves unnecessary expense to the county, increases risk of injury to persons or damage to property and dilutes the overall public safety protection to the county. Such false alarms constitute a public nuisance and must be abated.

(b) No person shall intentionally cause the activation of an alarm system knowing that no criminal activity, fire or other emergency exists. Any person found to be in violation of this section shall be subject to the penalty provisions of this ordinance.

14. This ordinance repeals and replaces any prior ordinance involving security alarm systems.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted this 24th day of January 2019, by a vote of 6 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent. A copy of this ordinance is available for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk, and has been properly posted and published.


Elizabeth Moses, County Chair


Sarah Lyons, County Clerk