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§ 93.01

TITLE.

This chapter, including all rules and regulations which may be adopted by this county, by reference or otherwise, is entitled “Emergency Alarm Ordinance”.
(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply.

ALARM HOLDER. The owner, lessor, or person responsible for the existence of an alarm system within or on premises.

~~FALSE ALARM RESPONSE.~~ An alarm signal resulting from a malfunction, improper installation or human error, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, other acts of God, or an interruption of service supplied by a carrier of the signal that requires a response from law enforcement.

ALARM SYSTEM. An assembly of equipment, components, or devices arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which personnel of the Lake County Sheriff’s Office are expected to respond. Such systems shall be construed hereunder to include **BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS, MANUAL HOLDUP ALARM SYSTEMS, and LOCAL ALARM SYSTEMS.**

AUTOMATIC DIALERS. An alarm system that, when activated, automatically relays over regular telephone lines (as distinguished from dedicated telephone lines) a pre-recorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of an emergency situation.

BURGLAR ALARM. An alarm system activated by signaling an entry or attempted entry into the area protected by the alarm system.

CENTRAL ANSWERING POINT. An office or place to which alarm systems are relayed and where operators monitor and investigate the alarm signals prior to notifying the appropriate agency of an emergency situation.

COUNTY. County of Lake, Illinois.

DEDICATED TELEPHONE LINE. A telephone line which has as its sole use the transmission of an alarm signal.

DIRECT CONNECTION. A method of using a telephone line which has as its sole use the transmission of an alarm signal to a central receiving facility provided by the county.

FIRE ALARM. An alarm system designed to detect heat or smoke.

HOLDUP ALARM. An alarm system which is activated manually to signal a robbery or an attempted robbery.

LOCAL ALARM. An alarm system which, when activated, causes an audible or visual signal in or on the premises that the system is designed to protect. This alarm may or may not be a part of a system to notify an answering point.

SERVICE CHARGE. An assessment by the county against an alarm holder for false alarms emanating from the alarm system as provided in this section.

TROUBLE INDICATION. A transmitted signal different from the alarm signal which indicates a mechanical-electrical problem in the system.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.03 ALARM HOLDER PERMITS.

(A) No person shall be authorized to operate an alarm system, other than local alarms as defined herein, without first obtaining an alarm user's permit. Users requiring new installations shall obtain permits within ten days following passage of this chapter.

(B) All applications for a permit shall be made upon forms prescribed by the Lake County Sheriff, which may be obtained at the office of the Lake County Sheriff.

(C) All applications for new permits must contain the updated names of the agent or key-holder.

(1) All applicants, and all manufacturers and companies under contract to maintain receiving alarm equipment within facilities of the county, by their several acts in applying for and in receiving permits to use the facilities, shall be deemed to have agreed that the county shall not be held liable for any alarm failure of service, and shall not be held liable for any consequential damages resulting from that failure. Further, the permit holders, upon receiving their permits, also agree thereby that the county shall not be held liable for any damage that may result from the installation, maintenance, or operation of the alarm system, the installation, maintenance, and operation being the sole responsibility of the alarm holder. Further, all alarm holders, by the act of obtaining issuance of a permit to them, shall be deemed to have agreed to all of the provisions of subsections (C)(2) and (C)(3) hereof.

(2) All applicants, by receiving a permit, agree to indemnify, defend, and save harmless this county, its agents, servants, and employees, and the manufacturers and companies, if any, under contract or agreement to maintain the receiving alarm equipment in the county facilities, from all claims, demands, judgments, liability, costs, and expenses that may arise, in any way, as a result of utilization of the alarm connection to county facilities.

(3) All permit holders agree that the county, the equipment manufacturers and companies under contract to maintain receiving alarm equipment within county facilities, shall not be liable for any costs or expenses of installation, maintenance of leased services, or any other charge or fees for any alarm equipment leased or owned by the applicant.

(D) All applicants at the time of making application for a permit hereunder must certify that they have a system of alarm maintenance available to them on a 24-hour basis, and that an alternative power source is available to prevent false alarms due to any failure of power supplied by a utility company.

(E) The alarm holders permit application form will be reviewed by the Lake County Sheriff to determine whether the form complies with this chapter. If the Lake County Sheriff approves the form, the Lake County Sheriff shall issue a permit.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.04 DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNTY FACILITIES.

(A) After issuance by the Lake County Sheriff of a permit, the holders of permits for alarms from business premises, financial institutions, and residences may have the systems so installed as to terminate within the county's alarm facilities.

(B) An alarm holder approved for a direct connection to county alarm facilities, or the company contracting for servicing the subscriber's alarm system, shall be responsible for obtaining the data path between the alarm holder's premises and the alarm receiving equipment, if required, in order to provide an input signal which is compatible with the receiving equipment.

(C) All signals transmitted over these wires shall be transmitted in a method compatible with the alarm receiving equipment and the requirements of the county.

(D) These alarms shall be subject to the same provisions concerning false alarms as other systems addressed herein.

(E) Each direct communication alarm system user in the county shall provide an alternative source of power for the alarm system in order to prevent false alarms due to failure of power supplied from the utility company. The alternative source of power shall have the capacity to provide power for at least 24 hours subsequent to any power failure.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.05 CENTRAL ANSWERING SERVICE.

Upon approval of an application for permit, an alarm holder may utilize an alarm system connected to a central answering point other than the Lake County Sheriff's facility. The operator of this answering point shall first attempt to determine the validity of an alarm signal and, if unable to do so, shall notify the Lake County Sheriff's Office whether the signal is believed to be a valid or genuine alarm.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.06 LOCAL ALARMS.

Local alarms shall have an automatic shutoff which will deactivate the sound within ten minutes after activation of the alarm. In the event that the alarm shall not respond to the automatic shutoff, neither the county nor its employees shall be liable for damages by reason of failure of the shutoff device.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.07 ~~FALSE ALARMS-ALARM RESPONSES.~~

~~(A) Three false alarms shall be without charge in any 12-month period. A service charge of \$25 shall be billed to the company reporting the fourth and fifth false alarms, and shall be billed \$50 for each false alarm thereafter in any 12-month period. Two alarm responses shall be without charge in any 12-month period. A service charge of \$50 shall be billed to the company reporting the third through fifth alarm response, and shall be billed \$100 for the sixth alarm response and thereafter in a 12-month period, except as provided in § 93.09(B).~~

- (1) Should a false alarm be transmitted by a piece of electronic equipment under service by an alarm company, there shall be no charge for a false alarm, provided the alarm holder gives the Lake County Sheriff proof that the defect is being corrected.

(2) In the event false alarms or trouble alarms continue during any 12-month period, the Lake County Sheriff may direct the company maintaining the county monitoring equipment to disconnect the premises, from which the false or trouble alarms originate, from the equipment. Reconnection of the premises to the monitoring equipment shall not be made until all false alarm fees, and a reconnection charge of \$250, have been paid to the county.

(B) Failure, or refusal, of any alarm holder to pay any service charge or service charges for false alarms may result in discontinuance of the alarm service.

(C) A 30-day grace period for new alarm systems or for major modification or additions to existing alarm systems shall be granted upon approval by the Lake County Sheriff.
(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.08 TESTING EQUIPMENT.

(A) Alarm systems transmitting emergency signals directly to the communication center of the county shall be tested, or demonstrated only with prior approval from the Lake County Sheriff.

(B) Approval of the Lake County Sheriff is not required to test or demonstrate alarm devices not transmitting emergency messages directly to the communication center unless the messages are to be relayed to county facilities.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.09 DISCONNECTION FROM COUNTY FACILITIES.

(A) Failure of an alarm holder to pay any service charges required to be paid by this chapter shall be cause for the Lake County Sheriff to disconnect an alarm system.

(B) If any alarm system records 12 false alarms within any 12-month period, that shall be cause for the Lake County Sheriff to disconnect an alarm system upon giving 60 days' written notice to the alarm holder.

(C) Twelve or more trouble indicators from any one alarm system within any 12-month period shall be cause for the Lake County Sheriff to disconnect an alarm system after 60 days' written notice.

(D) Any disconnection hereunder shall not be at the cost of the county.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.10 RECONNECTION TO COUNTY FACILITIES.

(A) If an alarm system has been disconnected because of non-payment of any charges, the alarm system may be reconnected to county facilities only after payment of all outstanding charges.

(B) If an alarm system has been disconnected because of excessive false alarms or trouble indicators, the alarm holder affected must submit to the Lake County Sheriff a written statement showing all reasons, if any, for the trouble indications and false alarms, and setting forth what measures have been taken to prevent or to minimize future similar problems. The Lake County Sheriff shall review the statement and, if the Lake County Sheriff recommends reconnection of the alarm system in question, the alarm holder shall apply for a permit as in the instance of an initial application.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.11 RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.

(A) The county reserves the right to disconnect the services connected with monitoring of any alarm system after giving 60 days' written notice of intention to disconnect.

(B) The county is under no obligation to provide this special type of monitoring service to any person, and the county expressly reserves the right to deny to any person the privilege of connecting an alarm system to facilities of the county.

(C) In those instances in which an alarm is activated and a Deputy Sheriff responds by going to the premises, and finds no evidence of breaking and entering, the Deputy shall not be required to remain at the premises.

(D) In those instances in which an alarm is activated and a Deputy responds by going to the premises, and, if he or she finds evidence of breaking and entering, the investigating officer will remain at the premises until the owner or his or her agent comes to the premises in response to the alarm.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.12 ENFORCEMENT.

(A) The Lake County Sheriff shall have the responsibility for enforcement of this chapter.

(B) In connection with enforcement of this chapter, the Lake County Sheriff may prescribe and publish minimum standards and regulations for the construction and maintenance of all alarm systems.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)

§ 93.99 PENALTY.

Any person found guilty of violating any provision of this chapter shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 for each offense. Each day of continuation of an offense shall be considered a separate offense.

(1977 Code, § 3:6-3) (Ord. passed 3-11-1986)