

Town of Chaplin False Fire Alarm Ordinance

At a Special Town Meeting held May 29, 2019 the voters of the town of Chaplin duly enacted the following ordinance:

False Fire Alarm Ordinance:

Intent.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to prohibit, prevent and penalize the causing of a false alarm.

False alarms.

- a) False alarms caused by error or malfunction.
- b) Intentional false fire alarms.

Fines and Penalties. Unintentional False Alarms.

Any alarm system shall be activated only when an appropriate emergency exists.

The following fines, penalties and charges shall be imposed upon the alarm system owner for activation of an alarm system by error, mistake or malfunction in violation of this subsection hereof.

- a) Up to two such false fire alarms per box may occur in any calendar year without the imposition of a penalty.
- b) After the first false fire alarm in a calendar year, a written warning shall be sent to the alarm system owner advising the owner of this section and its provisions concerning penalties for false alarms.
- c) After the second false fire alarm in a calendar year, a written order shall be issued to the alarm system owner requiring the alarm system to be inspected and the First Selectman and Fire Marshal's Office notified in writing of corrective action taken.
- d) The third such false fire alarm and every subsequent false fire alarm during any calendar year shall result in a fine of \$100 per alarm imposed upon the alarm system owner. In addition, the alarm system owner shall be responsible for and shall bear the expenses of the Fire Department's response to any such false alarm. The Fire Department's expenses shall be determined by the chief of the department and billed to the alarm system owner; provided, however, that no such charges, exclusive of any penalty imposed, shall exceed \$250 per response.

Fines and Penalties. Intentional False Alarms.

No person shall use an alarm system to set off a false alarm.

- a) Any person who violates Subsection (d)(1) of this section shall be fined \$100 and may be subject to additional penalties and prosecution under the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, for falsely reporting an incident.
- b) One intentional false alarm per alarm system may occur during any calendar year without the imposition of a penalty on the owner of the alarm system, other than a fine under Subsection (d)(2) of this section if the owner personally violates Subsection (d)(1).
- c) Upon the occurrence of the first false alarm set at any alarm system in a calendar year, a written warning shall be sent to the owner of the alarm system requiring protective devices to be installed at all boxes in the alarm system to prevent further setting off of false alarms. The owner of the alarm systems shall notify in writing the Fire Department and the First Selectman about the corrective action taken.

- d) 1) The second and any subsequent false alarms set off from an alarm system in any calendar year shall result in a fine of \$100 per false alarm set off.
 - 2) In addition, the owner of the alarm system shall be responsible for and bear the expense of the department's response to any such intentional false alarm. The expense shall be determined by the chief of the Fire Department and billed to the alarm system owner; provided, however, that no such charge, exclusive of any penalty imposed, shall exceed \$250 per response.

Testing and maintaining.

- a) An alarm system owner's testing of the alarm system shall not be considered a false alarm under the provisions of this Ordinance provided:
- b) The Emergency Communications Center and any service monitoring the alarm system are notified in advance of the testing;
- c) The Emergency Communications Center and monitoring service are notified promptly once testing has been completed.

An alarm system owner who voluntarily takes the system off line to correct malfunctions shall notify their Emergency Communications Center when the system is taken off line and when it is returned to service.

Administration.

- a) Unless otherwise stated, all warnings, notices and fines and penalties required by this Ordinance shall emanate from the First Selectman or his or her designee. Fines/penalties shall be paid to the First Selectman or the First Selectman's designee.

Appeal.

Any such fine or penalty may be appealed and enforced pursuant to the **Town of Chaplin Hearing Procedure for Citations Ordinance** authorized by Connecticut General Statutes section 7-152c.

The above and foregoing ordinance was duly enacted by the voters of the Town of Chaplin at the Annual Town Meeting held on May 13, 2019. A summary of the ordinance was published in the Willimantic Chronicle on June 1, 2019 and became effective June 16, 2019 in accordance with Section 7-157 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.

Attest: Shari Smith, Chaplin Town Clerk