

OVERLAND PARK ALARM ORDINANCE SUMMARY

Ordinance Revision Effective January 1, 1999

We hope you find this information helpful and informative. If you wish to obtain a copy of the complete alarm ordinance or if you have any questions, please contact the Alarm Coordinator's office at 913-327-6722 or visit www.opkansas.org/go/alarms.

The alarm ordinance applies to any user of an alarm system installed in a building, structure or facility within the City of Overland Park, Kansas, whether monitored or not monitored by an alarm company. An Alarm User's Permit application and fee payment must be on file with the Alarm Coordinator's office prior to the system's activation. The activation date is when a new system was installed or a new user begins using an existing system. Permits are not transferable by name or address. Permits remain valid for as long as the same user operates the same alarm system at the same location. Upon request, users must provide proof of alarm system acquisition, installation, and/or activation date. A one-time fee of \$10 will be charged for each permit. Alarm users failing to obtain a valid permit in accordance with O.P.M.C. 5.06.020 may be assessed a late fee of \$25. Any user who fails to respond to a request from the Alarm Coordinator's office for an application will be issued a **Notice to Appear in Municipal Court for violation of the O.P.M.C 5.06.020.**

Each alarm system user with a valid permit will be allowed two false alarms per calendar year before false alarm fee is assessed. Alarm users installing a new system or taking over an existing system will be allowed one additional chargeable false alarm with no fee due if they have a valid permit prior to the alarm activation and the first alarm occurs during the first 45 days of operation.

Each alarm activation resulting in police response is reviewed as to type, cause and known circumstances. The Alarm Coordinator's office will notify the permit holder in writing, of each false alarm response recorded. A non-chargeable false alarm does not count but remains a part of the alarm history. Any alarm system, which records more than the allowed number of false alarms within a period of one calendar year, will be subject to the following fees:

No fees assessed for the first or second chargeable false alarms.....	\$0.00
Third chargeable false alarm.....	\$50.00
Fourth chargeable false alarm.....	\$100.00
Fifth chargeable false alarm.....	\$150.00
Sixth chargeable false alarm	\$200.00
Seventh and each subsequent chargeable false alarm.....	\$250.00

Failure to submit an application or to pay false alarm fees is a violation of this ordinance. Violations may be prosecuted in the municipal court. "Any person convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of or failing to comply with any of the mandatory requirements of this ordinance shall be guilty of a public offense and punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment not to exceed six months or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each person shall be guilty of a separate offense for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of any provision of the City ordinance is committed, continued or permitted by any such person". 5.06.090 Penalty

Appealing a False Alarm Notice: Any alarm user assessed a chargeable false alarm may appeal such assessment to the Chief of Police or his designee. For an appeal to be considered, it must be filed, in writing by the alarm permit holder, within fifteen (15) calendar days of the first false alarm notice. Any supporting information from monitoring, utility, or service companies, etc. pertaining to the appeal must be submitted in writing by the system user. **Faulty equipment, overly sensitive equipment, and user error are not valid as grounds for an appeal.**

Canceling a False Alarm: All alarm monitoring companies will allow the cancellation of police response for a known false alarm. Requests for cancellation must be received from the monitoring station prior to the officer's arrival and follow proper procedure. You cannot call the police station to cancel, please call your monitoring station. **"Panic" and "Hold up" alarms cannot be canceled.**

All audible alarm systems must be equipped so as to automatically discontinue the audible sound within fifteen (15) minutes of activation.

The Overland Park Police Department conducts a free monthly False Alarm Prevention Program designed to educate alarm users on how to prevent false alarms. The program is highly recommended for all alarm users and is mandatory for any alarm user having ten (10) or more false alarms during a calendar year. Call 913-327-6722.

Alarm Ordinance 5.06.030 (a) In accordance with O.P.M.C.5.06.020, every alarm user or operator shall obtain an alarm permit from the Police Department Alarm Coordinator's office prior to operation or activation of an alarm system. Alarm permits are non-transferable. Each separate building, structure, business, premise or facility maintaining one or more alarm systems must obtain an alarm user's permit. Each permit shall bear the signature of the Chief of Police or his or her designee and shall be physically kept upon the premises using the alarm system and shall be available for inspection by the Chief of Police, his or her designee or any police officer upon request.

Pursuant to Alarm Ordinance 5.06.040(d) Whenever a change occurs relating to the written information required by this ordinance, the alarm user shall give notice thereof to the Alarm Coordinator's office within 15 days after such becomes effective.