

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON

### ORDINANCE REGULATING AUTOMATIC FIRE AND POLICE ALARMS

#### Section 1: PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the public's safety and welfare by reducing the number of false alarms, providing for the effective deployment of fire department and police personnel, reducing the hazard to the public and members of the fire and police departments which occurs during response to false alarms, and promoting the responsible use of fire and burglary alarm devices. (C.G.S. 7-148 (c) (7)(H) (xiv).

#### Section 2: DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 "ALARM SYSTEM" shall mean any device which, when activated by fire, heat, smoke or forced entry, automatically transmits a telephone signal to the Litchfield County Dispatch headquarters to dispatch the Washington Fire Department or transmit a signal to the Connecticut State Police.
- 2.2 "ALARM USER" shall mean that person whose name appears on the registration form as the "USER"; or if such registration form has not been filed, the owner, occupant, or lessee of the premises upon which the alarm system is located.
- 2.3 "AUTOMATIC DIALING DEVICE" refers to an alarm system which automatically sends over regular telephone lines, by direct connection or otherwise, a pre-recorded voice message indicating the existence of the emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect. Dialing devices shall be programmed to a central station and shall not terminate at either the Resident Trooper's office in Washington or at the Litchfield County Dispatch headquarters. (CGS 7-282b).
- 2.4 "FALSE ALARM" shall mean the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or negligence by the owner, a lessee, a guest or an employee. False alarms do not include alarms caused by thunderstorms, earthquakes, other violent conditions or alarms transmitted with criminal, malicious or mischievous intent.
- 2.5 "KEYHOLDER" shall mean the person or persons made responsible by the homeowner to go to the house with the automatic alarm within a 15-minute time span to allow access to the house.

#### Section 3: REGISTRATION

- 3.1 Alarm systems shall be installed in accordance with the Connecticut State Building Code and pursuant to a permit issued by the Building Official.
- 3.2 No person shall install, connect or operate an alarm system within the Town of Washington until a permit has been issued by the Building Department of the Town. A registration form shall be completed and include the name, telephone number and address of the alarm user (2.2) and at least one other person who shall have access to the alarm system *within a time period of 15 minutes* in order to reset or disconnect the system when necessary (2.5).
- 3.3 Said registration form may require additional information as requested by the Town and shall be submitted to the Building Official at least 10 days prior to such installation, connection or operation.
- 3.4 Alarm users having existing alarms shall have 60 days from the effective date of this ordinance to

register their alarm systems with the Building Official.

- 3.5 Property street numbers must be included on registration forms and prominently displayed at roadside.

#### **Section 4: MAINTENANCE AND TESTING**

- 4.1 Alarm owners shall be responsible for maintaining their alarm system in good working order.
- 4.2 No alarm system shall be tested, repaired, or adjusted if such action would result in a false alarm without prior notification to the alarm monitoring service or fire department.

#### **Section 5: AUDIBLE SIGNAL**

All alarm systems that are audible outside of the protected premises shall be equipped with a device limiting the duration of such audible signal to not more than fifteen (15) minutes.

#### **Section 6: PENALTIES**

- 6.1 There are hereby imposed the following penalties upon an alarm user whose system transmits a false alarm:
- A. 1st false alarm:  
Written notice of violation by the police or fire officer at the scene.
  - B. 2nd false alarm within a twelve (12) month period:  
Written notice of violation by the fire department chief or resident trooper by certified mail instructing the alarm user to correct the problem.
  - C. 3rd false alarm within a twelve (12) month period and each subsequent false alarm:  
Written notice from the First Selectman by certified mail instructing the alarm user to correct the problem and issuance of a fine of \$100. The owner will provide to the First Selectman the written certification of his contractor/installer that the system has been returned to proper working order.
- 6.2 The following acts are also prohibited and each separate violation shall carry a fine of \$100.:
- A. Intentionally causing a false alarm.
  - B. Failure to register an alarm system or to give notice of changes in registration information as required by this ordinance.
  - C. Use of an automatic dialing service or an exterior audible alarm device in violation of the provisions of this ordinance.
  - D. Installation, connection, or operation of an alarm system not meeting the specifications as set forth in this ordinance.

#### **Section 7: MUNICIPAL NON-LIABILITY**

Notwithstanding the provisions of this ordinance, the Town of Washington and its Fire and Police Departments, their officers, agents and employees shall be under no obligation whatsoever concerning the adequacy, operation or maintenance of any alarm device or monitoring facilities. No liability whatsoever is assumed for the failure to respond to alarms or for any other act or omission in connection with such alarm devices. The Town of Washington and its Fire and Police Departments shall be held harmless and authorized to enter, with force if necessary, any residence for which there is no homeowner, keyholder or unlocked entrance available for the purpose of inspection to insure the health and safety of the residence.

#### **Section 8: EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall take effect July 1, 1997.

# TOWN OF WASHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

## ALARM REGISTRATION FORM

This registration form is to be submitted to the Building Official to register automatic fire and/or police alarm systems within the Town of Washington in accordance with Ordinance #205 Regulating Automatic Fire and Police Alarm Systems adopted May 15, 1997 and effective July 1, 1997.

Property Owner Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Alarm company installing the system \_\_\_\_\_

Alarm company monitoring the system \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Alarm panel location in building \_\_\_\_\_

Keyholder name 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Keyholder address \_\_\_\_\_

Keyholder name 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Keyholder address \_\_\_\_\_

Electrical Permit Number \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Town of Washington's Ordinance No. 205 Regulating Automatic Fire and Police Alarms and understand the conditions of the ordinance. The facts on this registration are accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner/Agent

cc:    ☐ Selectman's Office  
      ☐ Building Official  
      ☐ Fire Co.  
      ☐ Police