

Regulation of Alarm Systems

Chapter 1 Regulation of Alarm Systems

9-1-1 Regulation of Alarm Systems

Sec. 9-1-1 Regulation of Alarm Systems.

- (a) **Purpose.** The purpose of this Section is to establish regulations relating to the type, installation, and use of alarm systems in Bayfield County, in order to enhance the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department's ability to respond quickly to crimes in progress and other emergencies as well as to reduce the incidence of false alarms received by the Department.
- (b) **Definitions.** The following definitions shall be applicable in this Section:
- (1) **Alarm System.** A device or assembly of equipment installed on real property which signals the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention to which law enforcement officers are expected to respond.
 - (2) **Alarm User.** Any person on whose premises in Bayfield County an alarm system is maintained, including an "on-premise alarm system" or an alarm system utilizing a "central answering service."
 - (3) **Automatic Dialing Device.** An alarm system which automatically sends over regular telephone lines, by direct connection or otherwise, a pre-recorded voice message or signal indicating the existence of an emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.
 - (4) **Central Answering Service.** A private service for receiving on a continuous basis, through trained employees, emergency signals from alarm systems and, immediately thereafter, relaying the information by live voice to the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department.
 - (5) **Department.** The Bayfield County Sheriff's Department.
 - (6) **False Alarm.** A signal from an alarm system resulting in a response by the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department when an emergency situation does not exist, including such signals caused by intentional means, employee error, equipment malfunction, or testing without prior notification to the Department as required by Subsection (g), but not including such signals due to power outage or act of nature beyond control of the alarm user.
 - (7) **On-Premise Alarm System.** An alarm system which generates a visual or audible signal on or about the premises which is intended to be observed or heard off the premises but is not transmitted in any other manner.
 - (8) **Person.** Any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other legal entity.

(c) Alarm System Permits.

- (1) No person shall install or maintain an alarm system in Bayfield County without first having obtained a permit therefore from the Department. A permit shall be applied for upon an application form supplied by the Department and shall include the following information:
 - a. Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant.
 - b. A description of the type of alarm system to be used and how it will work.
 - c. A description of the location of the alarm system and of the premises upon which it will be located.
 - d. The name, address, and telephone number of any central answering service which will monitor the alarm system.
 - e. The name, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted in the event an alarm signal is received, who shall have access to the premises and who shall be readily available to assist the Department in responding to the signal.
- (2) The fee for a permit shall be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).
- (3) No permit shall be issued for an automatic dialing device which sends signals or prerecorded messages over telephone lines owned by or maintained for the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department.
- (4) Any person who violates this Section more than two (2) times within one (1) year or more than three (3) times within five (5) years may have his/her permit revoked by the Bayfield County Sheriff or his/her designee.

(d) Central Answering Services.

- (1) A central answering service, when notifying the Department of an alarm signal received by the service, shall provide the Department with the following information:
 - a. Name of alarm user.
 - b. Location from which the alarm signal originated.
 - c. The name, address, and telephone number of the contact person described in Subsection (d)(2).
 - d. Such other pertinent information as is available.

- (2) A central answering service shall require each alarm user for whom it provides services to have a contact person who has access to the premises protected by the alarm system and who is readily available to assist the Department in responding to an alarm signal from the system. Upon receiving an alarm signal which it has or will report to the Department, the service shall immediately notify the contact person, who shall immediately contact the Department to assist in its response to the signal.
- (e) **Automatic Dialing Devices Prohibited.** No person shall utilize an automatic dialing device which sends signals or pre-recorded messages over telephone lines owned by or maintained for the Department without written approval by the Department.
- (f) **False Alarms.**
- (1) No person shall intentionally cause or allow the giving of a false alarm by an alarm system.
- (2) The law enforcement officer responding to an alarm signal shall determine whether or not the signal shall be recorded as a false alarm, and shall state his/her findings in a brief report which shall be recorded on the call sheet in the Department's incident tracking computer system.
- (g) **Alarm System Testing.** An alarm user and/or the central answering service monitoring an alarm system shall notify the Department in advance of any test of an alarm system. If the Department responds to a signal resulting from a test conducted without prior notice to the Department, the signal shall be deemed a false alarm under Subsection (f).
- (h) **Penalties.**
- (1) Any person violating Subsections (c), (d) and (e) shall be subject to the following:
- a. First violation within a twelve (12) month period: Written warning.
 - b. Subsequent violations within a twelve (12) month period: One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
- (2) Any person violating Subsection (f) shall be subject to the following:
- a. First or second violation within a twelve (12) month period: Written warning.

- b. Third violation within a twelve (12) month period: Twenty-five Dollar (\$25.00) forfeiture.
- c. Fourth violation within a twelve (12) month period: Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) forfeiture.
- d. Fifth or subsequent violation within a twelve (12) month period: Seventy-five Dollar (\$75.00) forfeiture.