

CODE ENFORCEMENT MOST COMMON QUESTIONS

REVISED 11/20/12



The primary responsibility of the Code Enforcement Department is the enforcement of the Township Code of Ordinances. It is our responsibility to ensure that all residential and commercial properties are in compliance with all Township Codes.



Garage and Yard Sales

The following are the regulations governing garage/yard sales in Thomas Township.

- The sale is temporary.
- It cannot exceed two (2) weeks from its start date and cannot begin again for at least thirty (30) days from the last date of the prior sale.
- No location can have more than three (3) such sales per year.
- Items to be sold may not be openly displayed when sale is not in progress.
- Sale shall not be intended for more than incidental income and is not intended to be a commercial venture providing regular income.



Home Occupations

A home occupation is any business carried on by one or more members of a family residing on the premises providing it:

- Is operated in its entirety within the principal dwelling.
- Does not include more than one (1) employee not living in the dwelling.
- Does not involve alteration or construction not customarily found in the dwelling.
- Does not use any mechanical equipment except that which is used normally for purely domestic or household purposes.
- Does not use more than twenty-five (25) percent of the total actual floor area of the dwelling, not in the garage or other building.

Junk and Debris

Every tract of land within Thomas Township **MUST** be kept clean and free from any accumulation of vermin, dirt, filth, rubbish, garbage, junk, refuse, debris, waste or other matter of similar kind. This would include abandoned automobiles (serviceable or not), any parts thereof, tires, refuse from repair, alterations or demolition of buildings, machines or other equipment in whole or parts or **ANY** other discarded materials of any kind whatsoever, or in the yards, courts, passages, areas or alleys connected or belonging to the same.



Weeds and Grass

It is the **owner/occupant** responsibility to destroy noxious weeds before they reach the seed bearing stage of ten (10) inches. Further, the **owner/occupant** shall keep uncontrolled plant growth to a height of no more than ten (10) inches. All noxious weeds and uncontrolled plant growth in violation of the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be a public nuisance. A notification process takes place for those who are in violation of this ordinance. If the owner (occupant, agent) fails to comply after notification, Thomas Township will then take the necessary steps to have the property cut to come into compliance. The cost/expense of having the property cut will then be the responsibility of the property owner. This may be enforced through liens that are subject to interest and penalties.



Trash Cans

Trash cans may not be at the curb more than twenty-four (24) hours in advance of pick-up. Proper containers for collection must be used. Violations are considered a municipal infraction and shall be treated as such.



Recreational Equipment Storage

Residentially zoned properties have restricted parking areas where recreational vehicles may not be parked. Restricted areas include the front yard, a portion of the side yard and rear yard. For specifics on regulations and requirements, please see the separate brochure for this topic.



Animals

Domesticated animals, which are customarily considered household pets kept inside of the house with no exterior pens or hold areas (This excludes livestock, wild or exotic animals, and dangerous animals.) can be kept in all zoning districts in Thomas Township.

An animal which is normally part of livestock maintained on a farm, examples, cow, horse, pig, goat, may be maintained in areas zoned for agriculture providing specific guidelines are met. These include acceptable agricultural management practice for the care of farm animals, for manure management and utilization as well as a minimum of two (2) acres of land on one parcel for the first animal with an additional acre per additional animal provided they do not create a public nuisance.



Wild or undomesticated animals otherwise found in the wilderness, exotic animals or those considered dangerous, such as zoo animals **are prohibited in Thomas Township.**

Reporting a Violation

If you have a complaint regarding a Township Code violation you may report them to the Code Enforcement Officer by contacting the Thomas Township Office at (989) 781-0150 or by stopping in and completing a complaint form. Once this information is received, the Code Enforcement Officer will follow the necessary steps to investigate the complaint and resolve any violations.