

## TITLE 11

### MUNICIPAL OFFENSES<sup>1</sup>

#### CHAPTER

1. ALCOHOL.
2. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET.
3. INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
4. FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES.
5. TRESPASSING AND INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC.
6. LITTERING.
7. MISCELLANEOUS.

#### CHAPTER 1

#### ALCOHOL<sup>2</sup>

#### SECTION

- 11-101. Drinking beer, etc., on streets, etc.  
 11-102. Minors in beer places.  
 11-103. Violations and penalty.

**11-101. Drinking beer, etc., on streets, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to drink or consume, or have an open can or bottle of beer in or on any public street, alley, avenue, highway, sidewalk, public park, public school ground or other public place unless the place has a beer permit and license for on-premises consumption. (1994 Code, § 11-101)

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code references

- Animals and fowls: title 10.
- Fireworks and explosives: title 7.
- Housing and utilities: title 12.
- Streets and sidewalks (non-traffic): title 16.
- Traffic offenses: title 15.

<sup>2</sup>Municipal code reference

- Sale of alcoholic beverages, including beer: title 8.

State law reference

- See *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 33-8-203 (*Arrest for Public Intoxication*, cities may not pass separate legislation).

**11-102. Minors in beer places.** No person under the age of twenty-one (21) shall loiter in or around, work in, or otherwise frequent any place where beer is sold at retail for consumption on the premises. (1994 Code, § 11-102)

**11-103. Violations and penalty.** A violation of any provision of this chapter shall subject the offender to a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code.

## CHAPTER 2

### OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET

#### SECTION

11-201. Disturbing the peace.

11-202. Anti-noise regulations.

**11-201. Disturbing the peace.** No person shall disturb, tend to disturb, or aid in disturbing the peace of others by violent, tumultuous or offensive conduct, and no person shall knowingly permit such conduct upon any premises owned or possessed by him or under his control. (1994 Code, § 11-301, modified)

**11-202. Anti-noise regulations.** Subject to the provisions of this section the creating of any unreasonably loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noise is prohibited. Noise of such character, intensity, or duration as to be detrimental to the life or health of any individual, or in disturbance of the public peace and welfare is prohibited.

(1) Miscellaneous prohibited noises enumerated. The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noises in violation of this section, but this enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive, namely:

(a) Blowing horns. The sounding of any horn or signal device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus, truck, or vehicle while not in motion except as a danger signal if another vehicle is approaching, apparently out of control, or if in motion, only as a danger signal after or as brakes are being applied and deceleration of the vehicle is intended; the creation by means of any such signal device of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound; and the sounding of such device for an unnecessary and unreasonable period of time.

(b) Radios, etc. The playing of any radio, or any musical instrument or sound device, including, but not limited to, loudspeakers or other devices for reproduction or amplification of sound, either independently of, or in connection with, motion pictures, radio, or television, in such a manner or with such volume, particularly during the hours between 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in any office or hospital, or in any dwelling, hotel, or other type of residence, or of any person in the vicinity.

(c) Yelling, shouting, hooting, etc. Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, or singing on the public streets, particularly between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., or at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of any persons in any hospital, dwelling, hotel, or other type of residence, or of any person in the vicinity.

(d) Pets. The keeping of any animal, bird, or fowl which by causing frequent or long continued noise shall disturb the comfort or repose of any person in the vicinity.

(e) Use of vehicle. The use of any automobile, motorcycle, truck, or vehicle so out of repair, so loaded, or in such manner as to cause loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling, or other noise.

(f) Exhaust discharge. To discharge into the open air the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine, motor vehicle, or boat engine, except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.

(g) Building operations. The erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration, or repair of any building in any residential area or section, or the construction or repair of streets and highways in any residential area or section, other than between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. on week days, except in case of urgent necessity in the interest of public health and safety, and then only with a permit from the building inspector granted for a period while the emergency continues not to exceed thirty (30) days. If the building inspector should determine that the public health and safety will not be impaired by the erection, demolition, alteration, or repair of any building or the excavation of streets and highways between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., and if he shall further determine that loss or inconvenience would result to any party in interest through delay, he may grant permission for such work to be done between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. upon application being made at the time the permit for the work is awarded or during the process of the work.

(h) Noises near schools, hospitals, churches, etc. The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any hospital or adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church, or court while the same is in session.

(i) Loading and unloading operations. The creation of any loud and excessive noise in connection with the loading or unloading of any vehicle or the opening and destruction of bales, boxes, crates, and other containers.

(j) Noises to attract attention. The use of any drum, loudspeaker, or other instrument or device emitting noise for the purpose of attracting attention to any performance, show, or sale or display of merchandise.

(k) Loudspeakers or amplifiers on vehicles. The use of mechanical loudspeakers or amplifiers on trucks or other moving or standing vehicles for advertising or other purposes.

(2) Exceptions. None of the terms or prohibitions hereof shall apply to, or be enforced against:

(a) Municipal vehicles. Any vehicle of the city while engaged upon necessary public business.

(b) Repair of streets, etc. Excavations or repairs of bridges, streets, or highways at night, by or on behalf of the city, the county, or the state, when the public welfare and convenience renders it impracticable to perform such work during the day. (1994 Code, § 11-302, modified)

## CHAPTER 3

### INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL

#### SECTION

11-301. Escape from custody or confinement.

11-302. Impersonating a government officer or employee.

11-303. False emergency alarms.

11-304. Resisting or interfering with an officer.

11-305. Coercing people not to work.

**11-301. Escape from custody or confinement.** It shall be unlawful for any person under arrest or otherwise in custody of, or confined by, the city to escape or attempt to escape, or for any other person to assist or encourage such person to escape or attempt to escape from such custody or confinement. (1994 Code, § 11-401)

**11-302. Impersonating a government officer or employee.** No person other than an official police officer of the city shall wear the uniform, apparel, or badge, or carry any identification card or other insignia of office like or similar to, or a colorable imitation of that adopted and worn or carried by the official police officers of the city. Furthermore, no person shall deceitfully impersonate or represent that he is any government officer or employee. (1994 Code, § 11-402)

**11-303. False emergency alarms.** It shall be unlawful for any person intentionally to make, turn in, or give a false alarm of fire, or of need for police or ambulance assistance, or to aid or abet in the commission of such act. (1994 Code, § 11-403)

**11-304. Resisting or interfering with an officer.** It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to resist or in any way interfere with or attempt to interfere with any officer or employee of the municipality while such officer or employee is performing or attempting to perform his municipal duties. (1994 Code, § 11-404)

**11-305. Coercing people not to work.** It shall be unlawful for any person in association or agreement with any other person to assemble, congregate, or meet together in the vicinity of any premises where other persons are employed or reside for the purpose of inducing any such other person by threats, coercion, intimidation, or acts of violence to quit or refrain from entering a place of lawful employment. It is expressly not the purpose of this section to prohibit peaceful picketing. (1994 Code, § 11-405)

**CHAPTER 4****FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES****SECTION**

11-401. Air rifles, etc.

11-402. Throwing missiles.

11-403. Discharge of firearms.

**11-401. Air rifles, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person in the city to discharge any air gun, air pistol, air rifle, "BB" gun, or sling shot capable of discharging a metal bullet or pellet, whether propelled by spring, compressed air, expanding gas, explosive, or other force-producing means or method. (1994 Code, § 11-501)

**11-402. Throwing missiles.** It shall be unlawful for any person to throw any stone, snowball, bottle, or any other missile maliciously upon or at any vehicle, building, tree, or other public or private property, or upon or at any person. (1994 Code, § 11-502)

**11-403. Discharge of firearms.** It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to discharge a firearm within the corporate limits, unless in self defense. (1994 Code, § 11-503, modified)

**CHAPTER 5****TRESPASSING AND INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC****SECTION**

11-501. Trespassing.

11-502. Interference with traffic.

**11-501. Trespassing.** The owner or person in charge of any lot or parcel of land or any building or other structure within the corporate limits may post the same against trespassers. It shall be unlawful for any person to go upon any such posted lot or parcel of land or into any such posted building or other structure without the consent of the owner or person in charge.

It shall be unlawful and deemed to be a trespass for any peddler, canvasser, solicitor, transient merchant, or other person to fail to leave promptly the private premises of any person who requests or directs him to leave. (1994 Code, § 11-601)

**11-502. Interference with traffic.** It shall be unlawful for any person to stand, sit, or engage in any activity whatever on any public street, sidewalk, bridge, or public ground in such a manner as to prevent, obstruct, or interfere unreasonably with the free passage of pedestrian or vehicular traffic thereon. (1994 Code, § 11-603)



**CHAPTER 6****LITTERING****SECTION**

- 11-601. Definitions.
- 11-602. Littering offenses.
- 11-603. Scope of regulation.
- 11-604. Violations and penalty.

**11-601. Definition.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Garbage" includes putrescible animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food;
- (2) "Litter" includes garbage, refuse, rubbish and all other waste material, including a tobacco product as defined in *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 39-17-1503(11) and any other item primarily designed to hold or filter a tobacco product while the tobacco is being smoked.
- (3) "Refuse" includes all putrescible and nonputrescible solid waste; and
- (4) "Rubbish" includes nonputrescible solid waste consisting of both combustible and non-combustible waste.

**11-602. Littering offenses.** (1) A person commits the civil offense of littering who:

- (a) Knowingly places, drops or throws litter on any public or private property without permission and does not immediately remove it;
  - (b) Negligently places or throws glass or other dangerous substances on or adjacent to water to which the public has access for swimming or wading, or on or within fifty feet (50') of a public highway; or
  - (c) Negligently discharges sewage, minerals, oil products or litter into any public waters or lakes within this state.
- (2) Whenever litter is placed, dropped, or thrown from any motor vehicle, boat, airplane, or other conveyance in violation of this section, the city/town judge may, in his or her discretion and in consideration of the totality of the circumstances, infer that the operator of the conveyance has committed littering.
- (3) Whenever litter discovered on public or private property is found to contain any article or articles, including, but not limited to, letters, bills, publications, or other writings that display the name of a person thereon in such a manner as to indicate that the article belongs or belonged to such person, the city/town judge may, in his or her discretion and in consideration of the totality of the circumstances, infer that such person has committed littering.

**11-603. Scope of regulation.** The regulation of litter in this chapter is limited to amounts of litter less than or equal to five pounds (5 lbs.) in weight or seven and one-half (7.5) cubic feet in volume.<sup>1</sup>

**11-604. Violations and penalty.** Littering is a civil offense punishable by a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code.

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference  
*Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 39-14-503.

**CHAPTER 7****MISCELLANEOUS****SECTION**

11-701. Caves, wells, cisterns, etc.

11-702. Wearing masks.

**11-701. Caves, wells, cisterns, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to permit to be maintained on property owned or occupied by him any cave, well, cistern, or other such opening in the ground which is dangerous to life and limb without an adequate cover or safeguard. (1994 Code, § 11-702)

**11-702. Wearing masks.** It shall be unlawful for any person to appear on or in any public way or place while wearing any mask, device, or hood whereby any portion of the face is so hidden or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer. The following are exempted from the provisions of this section:

- (1) Children under the age of ten (10) years;
- (2) Workers while engaged in work wherein a face covering is necessary for health and/or safety reasons;
- (3) Persons wearing gas masks in civil defense drills and exercises or emergencies; and
- (4) Any person having a special permit issued by the city recorder to wear a traditional holiday costume.
- (5) By mandate, or personal preference, to prevent the spread of illness. (1994 Code, § 11-705, modified)