

TITLE 11

MUNICIPAL OFFENSES¹

CHAPTER

1. ALCOHOL.
2. FORTUNE TELLING, ETC.
3. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET.
4. INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
5. FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES.
6. TRESPASSING AND INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC.
7. MISCELLANEOUS.
8. CURFEW FOR MINORS.
9. SKATEBOARDS.
10. EPHEDRINE CONTROL.

CHAPTER 1

ALCOHOL²

SECTION

- 11-101. Drinking alcoholic beverages in public, etc.
11-102. Minors in beer places.
11-103. Violations and penalty.

11-101. Drinking alcoholic beverages in public, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to drink, consume or have an open can or bottle of beer or intoxicating liquor in or on any public street, alley, avenue, highway, sidewalk, public park, public school ground or other public place.

¹Municipal code references

Animal control: title 10.

Fireworks and explosives: title 7.

Traffic offenses: title 15.

Streets and sidewalks (non-traffic): title 16.

²Municipal code reference

Sale of alcoholic beverages, including beer: title 8.

State law reference

See Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-24-203 (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 or otherwise frequent any place where beer is sold at retail for on premises consumption.

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**FORTUNE TELLING, ETC.****SECTION**

11-201. Fortune telling, etc.

11-201. Fortune telling, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct the business of, solicit for, or ply the trade of fortune teller, clairvoyant, hypnotist, spiritualist, palmist, phrenologist, or other mystic endowed with supernatural powers. A violation of this section shall subject the offender to a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code. (1970 Code, § 10-234, modified)

CHAPTER 3

OFFENSES AGAINST THE PEACE AND QUIET

SECTION

11-301. Disturbing the peace.

11-302. Anti-noise regulations.

11-303. Violation and penalty.

11-301. Disturbing the peace. No person shall disturb, tend to disturb, or aid in disturbing the peace of others by violent, tumultuous, offensive, or obstreperous conduct, and no person shall knowingly permit such conduct upon any premises owned or possessed by him or under his control. (1970 Code, § 10-202)

11-302. 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 other 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, phonographs, etc. The playing of any radio, phonograph, 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 person 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) Blowing whistles. The blowing of any steam whistle attached to any stationary boiler, except to give notice of the time to begin or stop work or as a warning of fire or danger, or upon request of proper municipal authorities.

(g) 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.

(h) 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 8:30 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 8:30 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 8:30 A.M. upon application being made at the time the permit for the work is awarded or during the process of the work.

(i) 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.

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

(k) 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.

(l) 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.

(m) "Jake Brakes." The use of an air or engine brake, or any dynamic braking device, commonly referred to as "Jake Brakes" inside the city limits of Decatur.

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

(a) Municipal vehicles. Any vehicle of the municipality 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 municipality, the county, or the state, when the public welfare and convenience renders it impracticable to perform such work during the day.

(c) Noncommercial and nonprofit use of loudspeakers or amplifiers. The reasonable use of amplifiers or loudspeakers in the course of public addresses which are noncommercial in character and in the course of advertising functions sponsored by nonprofit organizations. However, no such use shall be made until a permit therefor is secured from the recorder. Hours for the use of an amplifier or public address system will be designated in the permit so issued and the use of such systems shall be restricted to the hours so designated in the permit. (1970 Code, § 10-233, as amended by Ord. #140, Dec. 2004)

11-303. Violation 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 4**INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLIC OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL****SECTION**

11-401. Impersonating a government officer or employee.

11-402. False emergency alarms.

11-401. Impersonating a government officer or employee. No person other than an official police officer of the municipality 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 municipality. Furthermore, no person shall deceitfully impersonate or represent that he is any government officer or employee. (1970 Code, § 10-211)

11-402. False emergency alarms. It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally 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. (1970 Code, § 10-217)

CHAPTER 5**FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND MISSILES****SECTION**

11-501. Air rifles, etc.

11-502. Throwing missiles.

11-503. Weapons and firearms generally.

11-501. Air rifles, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person in the municipality 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. (1970 Code, § 10-213)

11-502. Throwing missiles. It shall be unlawful for any person to maliciously throw any stone, snowball, bottle, or any other missile upon or at any vehicle, building, tree, or other public or private property or upon or at any person. (1970 Code, § 10-214)

11-503. Weapons and firearms generally. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to discharge a firearm within the municipality. (1970 Code, § 10-212, modified)

CHAPTER 6**TRESPASSING AND INTERFERENCE
WITH TRAFFIC****SECTION**

11-601. Trespassing.

11-602. Interference with traffic.

11-603. Violation and penalty.

11-601. Trespassing. (1) On premises open to the public.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to defy a lawful order, personally communicated to him by the owner or other authorized person, not to enter or remain upon the premises of another, including premises which are at the time open to the public.

(b) The owner of the premises, or his authorized agent, may lawfully order another not to enter or remain upon the premises if such person is committing, or commits, any act which interferes with, or tends to interfere with, the normal, orderly, peaceful or efficient conduct of the activities of such premises.

(2) On premises closed or partially closed to public. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly enter or remain upon the premises of another which is not open to the public, notwithstanding that another part of the premises is at the time open to the public.

(3) Vacant buildings. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain upon the premises of a vacated building after notice against trespass is personally communicated to him by the owner or other authorized person or is posted in a conspicuous manner.

(4) Lots and buildings in general. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain on or in any lot or parcel of land or any building or other structure after notice against trespass is personally communicated to him by the owner or other authorized person or is posted in a conspicuous manner.

(5) Peddlers, etc. It shall also be unlawful and deemed to be a trespass for any peddler, canvasser, solicitor, transient merchant, or other person to fail to promptly leave the private premises of any person who requests or directs him to leave.

11-602. 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 with the free passage of pedestrian or vehicular traffic thereon. (1970 Code, § 10-232, modified)

11-603. Violation 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 7**MISCELLANEOUS****SECTION**

- 11-701. Abandoned refrigerators, etc.
- 11-702. Caves, wells, cisterns, etc.
- 11-703. Posting notices, etc.
- 11-704. Wearing masks.
- 11-705. Paying town with bad check.

11-701. Abandoned refrigerators, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to leave in any place accessible to children any abandoned, unattended, unused, or discarded refrigerator, icebox, or other container with any type latching or locking door without first removing therefrom the latch, lock, or door or otherwise sealing the door in such a manner that it cannot be opened by any child. A violation of this section shall subject the offender to a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code.

11-702. 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. A violation of this section shall subject the offender to a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code.

11-703. Posting notices, etc. No person shall paint, make, or fasten, in any way, any show-card, poster, or other advertising device or sign upon any public or private property unless legally authorized to do so. A violation of this section shall subject the offender to a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code. Each posting of such unauthorized notice shall constitute a separate offense.

11-704. 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.
- (4) Any person having a special permit issued by the city recorder to wear a traditional holiday costume. (1970 Code, § 10-235)

11-705. Paying town with bad check. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to pay any utility bill, taxes or other obligations owing to the town by a bad check and/or a check returned for insufficient funds.

(2) The person issuing and delivering to the town a bad check or a check returned for insufficient funds shall pay a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) service charge to reimburse the town for additional bookkeeping and record keeping work brought about by passing of the said check.

(3) Should any person refuse to make payment of the check and the service charge as set out herein, they shall be prosecuted as provided by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 39-14-121. (1970 Code, § 10-221, modified)

CHAPTER 8

CURFEW FOR MINORS

SECTION

- 11-801. Purpose.
- 11-802. Definitions.
- 11-803. Curfew enacted; exceptions.
- 11-804. Parental involvement in violation unlawful.
- 11-805. Involvement by owner or operator of vehicle unlawful.
- 11-806. Involvement by operator or employee of establishment unlawful.
- 11-807. Giving false information unlawful.
- 11-808. Enforcement.
- 11-809. Violations punishable by fine.

11-801. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to (1) Promote the general welfare and protect the general public through the reduction of juvenile violence and crime within the town;

(2) Promote the safety and well-being of minors, whose inexperience renders them particularly vulnerable to becoming participants in unlawful activity, particularly unlawful drug activity, and to being victimized by older criminals; and

(3) Foster and strengthen parental responsibility for children.

11-802. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following words have the following meanings:

(1) "Curfew hours" means the hours of 12:30 A.M. through 6:00 A.M. each day.

(2) "Emergency" means unforeseen circumstances, and the resulting condition or status, requiring immediate action to safeguard life, limb, or property. The word includes, but is not limited to, fires, natural disasters, automobile accidents, or other similar circumstances.

(3) "Establishment" means any privately-owned business place within the town operated for a profit and to which the public is invited, including, but not limited to, any place of amusement or entertainment. The word "operator" with respect to an establishment means any person, firm, association, partnership (including its members or partners), and any corporation (including its officers) conducting or managing the establishment.

(4) "Minor" means any person under eighteen (18) years of age who has not been emancipated under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 29-31-101, et seq.

(5) "Parent" means:

(a) A person who is a minor's biological or adoptive parent and who has legal custody of the minor, including either parent if custody is shared under a court order or agreement;

(b) A person who is the biological or adoptive parent with whom a minor regularly resides;

(c) A person judicially appointed as the legal guardian of a minor; and/or

(d) A person eighteen (18) years of age or older standing in loco parentis (as indicated by authorization by a parent as defined in this definition for the person to assume the care or physical custody of the minor, or as indicated by any other circumstances).

(6) "Person" means an individual and not a legal entity.

(7) "Public place" means any place to which the public or a substantial portion of the public has access, including, but not limited to: streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks, and the common areas of schools, hospitals, apartment houses or buildings, office buildings, transportation facilities, and shops.

(8) "Remain" means

(a) to linger or stay at or upon a place or

(b) to fail to leave a place when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer or by the owner, operator, or other person in control of that place.

(9) "Temporary care facility" means a non-locked, non-restrictive shelter at which a minor may wait, under visual supervision, to be retrieved by a parent. A minor waiting in a temporary care facility may not be handcuffed or secured by handcuffs or otherwise to any stationary object.

11-803. Curfew enacted; exceptions. It is unlawful for any minor, during curfew hours, to remain in or upon any public place within the town, to remain in any motor vehicle operating or parked on any public place within the town, or to remain in or upon the premises of any establishment within the town, unless:

(1) The minor is accompanied by a parent; or

(2) The minor is involved in an emergency; or

(3) The minor is engaged in an employment activity, or is going to or returning home from employment activity, without detour or stop; or

(4) The minor is on the sidewalk directly abutting a place where he or she resides with a parent; or

(5) The minor is attending an activity supervised by adults and sponsored by a school, religious, or civic organization, by a public organization or agency, or by a similar organization, or the minor is going to or returning from such an activity without detour or stop; or

(6) The minor is on a errand at the direction of a parent, and the minor has in his or her possession a writing signed by the parent containing the name, signature, address, and telephone number of the parent authorizing the errand, the telephone number where the parent may be reached during the errand, the name of the minor, and a brief description of the errand, the minor's

destination(s) and the hours the minor is authorized to be engaged in the errand; or

(7) The minor is involved in interstate travel through, or beginning or terminating in, the Town of Decatur; or

(8) The minor is exercising First Amendment rights protected by the U.S. Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly.

11-804. Parental involvement in violation unlawful. It is unlawful for a minor's parent knowingly to permit, allow, or encourage a violation of § 11-803 of this chapter.

11-805. Involvement by owner or operator of vehicle unlawful. It is unlawful for a person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle knowingly to permit, allow, or encourage a violation of § 11-803 of this chapter using the motor vehicle.

11-806. Involvement by operator or employee of establishment unlawful. It is unlawful for the operator or any employee of an establishment knowingly to permit, allow, or encourage a minor to remain on the premises of the establishment during curfew hours. It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the operator or employee promptly notified law enforcement officials that a minor was present during curfew hours and refused to leave.

11-807. Giving false information unlawful. It is unlawful for any person, including a minor, knowingly to give a false name, address, or telephone number to any law enforcement officer investigating a possible violation of § 11-803 of this chapter. Each violation of this section is punishable by a maximum fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

11-808. Enforcement. (1) Minors. Before taking any enforcement action, a law enforcement officer who is notified of a possible violation of § 11-803 shall make an immediate investigation to determine whether or not the presence of the minor in a public place, motor vehicle, or establishment during curfew hours is a violation of that section. If the investigation reveals a violation and the minor has not previously been issued a warning, the officer shall issue a verbal warning to the minor to be followed by a written warning mailed by the police department to the minor and his/her parent(s). If the minor has previously been issued a warning for a violation, the officer shall charge the minor with a violation of § 11-803 and shall issue a citation requiring the minor to appear in court. In either case, the officer shall, as soon as practicable, release the minor to his/her parent(s) or place the minor in a temporary care facility for a period not to exceed the remainder of the curfew hours so the parent(s) may retrieve the minor. If a minor refuses to give an officer his/her name and address or the

name and address of his/her parent(s), or if no parent can be located before the end of the applicable curfew hours, or if located, no parent appears to accept custody of the minor, the minor may be taken to a crisis center or juvenile shelter and/or may be taken to a judge or juvenile intake officer of the juvenile court to be dealt with as required by law.

(2) Others. If an officer's investigation reveals that a person has violated § 11-803, § 11-804, § 11-805, or § 11-806 of this chapter and the person has not been issued a warning with respect to a violation, the officer shall issue a verbal warning to the person to be followed by a written warning mailed by the police department to the person. If there has been a previous warning to the person, the officer shall charge the person with a violation and issue a citation directing the person to appear in court.

11-809. Violations punishable by fine. A violation of § 11-803, § 11-804, § 11-805, or § 11-806 subsequent to receiving a verbal warning as provided in § 11-808 is punishable by a maximum fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each violation.

CHAPTER 9

SKATEBOARDS

SECTION

11-901. Skateboarding in designated areas.

11-901. Skateboarding in designated areas. (1) It shall be unlawful to engage in skateboarding in the Decatur City Park except where specifically designated areas are provided by the Town of Decatur. All posted rules and regulations must be followed in any park or other city-owned property.

(2) The formal rules of the operation of the skateboard park are incorporated by reference as if repeated verbatim herein. (as added by Ord. #168, Nov. 2008)

CHAPTER 10

EPHEDRINE CONTROL

SECTION

11-1001. Ephedrine control.

11-1001. Ephedrine control. (1) Definitions. As used in this section, the following words and/or phrases shall have the following meanings as set forth herein:

(a) "Ephedrine." All forms of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, ephedrine hydrochloride, pseudoephedrine hydrochloride, phenylpropanolamine and all other combinations of these chemicals.

(b) "Ephedrine product." Any product that contains ephedrine, its salts, isomers, or salts of isomers, as its sole active ingredient or in combination with less than therapeutically significant qualities of other active ingredients.

(c) "Person." Any individual, corporation, partnership, trust, limited liability company, firm, association or other entity selling an ephedrine product to customers.

(d) "Sell." To knowingly furnish, give away, exchange, transfer, deliver, surrender or supply, whether for monetary gain or not.

(e) "Package." Any number of pills, tablets, capsules, caplets or individual units of a substance held within a container intended for sale.

(2) Restrictions on public access to ephedrine products. It shall be illegal to sell, deliver, or distribute ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, their salts, their optical isomers or salts of their optical isomers, without a valid prescription from a physician or other healthcare professional licensed by the State of Tennessee to write prescriptions and filled by a Tennessee-licensed pharmacist.

(3) Exception. The prohibition contained in subsection (2) shall not apply to the sale of animal feed containing ephedrine or dietary supplement products containing natural occurring or herbal Ephedra and extract of Ephedra.

(4) Reporting theft of ephedrine products. (a) Any person who sells ephedrine products and who discovers a theft, disappearance or other loss of an ephedrine product shall report the theft, disappearance, or loss in writing to the Decatur Police Department within twenty-four (24) hours of such a discovery.

(b) Any person who sells ephedrine products shall report to the Decatur Police Department any difference between the quantities of ephedrine products shipped and the quantity of ephedrine products received within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery.

(5) Penalty and injunctive relief. (a) Each violation of this chapter shall be considered a separate offense.

(b) The town mayor may institute an action for injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(c) Every act or omission constituting a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter by any agent or employee of any person shall be deemed and held to be the act of such person, and said person shall be punishable in the same manner as if said act or omission had been done or omitted by him/her or it personally, provided such an act or omission was within the scope of employment or the scope of authority of such agent or employee.

(6) Civil penalty. Any Town of Decatur sworn law enforcement officer is hereby empowered to issue a citation to any person for any violation of the provisions of this section. Citations so issued may be delivered in person to the violator or they may be delivered by registered mail to the person so charged if the person cannot be readily found. Any citation so delivered or mailed shall direct the alleged violator to appear in city court on a specific day and at a specific hour stated upon the citation; and the time so specified shall be not less than seventy-two (72) hours after its delivery in person to the alleged violator, or less than ten (10) days of mailing of same. Citations issued for a violation of any of the provision of this section shall be tried in the city court. The city court judge shall determine whether a defendant has committed a violation of this section. The town shall bear the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence. If a defendant pleads guilty or "no contest" to the alleged violation, or is found guilty by the city court judge, the city court judge shall assess a civil monetary fine as a penalty against any person found to have violated any of the provisions of this section, said fine to be in an amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each violation. Each day of violation shall be deemed a separate violation. Each separate package containing any substance containing any ephedrine as defined herein shall be deemed a separate violation. In addition to the civil monetary fine, any defendant who pleads guilty or "no contest" to the alleged violation, or who is found guilty by the city court judge, shall be assessed court costs as provided by law, and in addition shall be ordered to pay an administrative fee to the town in an amount to recoup the cost incurred by the town law enforcement agency for any chemical test conducted by or at the request of the law enforcement agency that is used to determine the chemical content of any substance collected from the defendant which formed the basis for any citation charge. Appeal may be had as provided by law. (as added by Ord. #192, Sept. 2013)