

TITLE I ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

CHAPTER 3 GENERAL PROVISIONS

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1-3-1 **DEFINITIONS.** The following words and phrases whenever used in the Ordinances of the County, shall be construed as defined in this section unless, from the context, a different meaning is intended or unless different meaning is specifically defined and more particularly directed to the use of such words or phrases:

1. "Computation of time" means the time within which an act is to be done. It shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last day; and if the last day is Sunday or a legal holiday, that day shall be excluded;
2. "County" means Sac County, Iowa;
3. "Fiscal Year" means July 1 to June 30.
4. "Law" denotes applicable federal law, the Constitution and statutes of the State of Iowa, the Ordinances of the County; and when appropriate, any and all rules and regulations which may be promulgated thereunder;
5. "May" confers a power;
6. "Month" means a calendar month;
7. "Must" states a requirement;
8. "Oath" shall be construed to include an affirmative or declaration in all cases in which, by law, an affirmation may be substituted for an oath, and in such cases the words "affirm" and "affirmed" shall be equivalent to the words "swear" and "sworn";
9. "Or" may be read "and" and "and" may be read "or" if the sense requires it;
10. "Ordinance" means a law of the County; however, an administrative action, order or directive, may be in the form of a resolution;
11. "Owner" applied to a building or land includes any part owner, joint owner, tenant in common, joint tenant or tenant by the entirety, of the whole or part of such building or land;

12. "Person" means natural person, joint venture, joint stock company, partnership, association, club, company, corporation, business, trust, organization, or the manager, lessee, agent, servant, officer or employee of any of them;
13. "Personal property" includes money, goods, chattels, things in action and evidences of debt;
14. "Preceding" and "following" mean next before and next after, respectively;
15. "Property" includes real and personal property;
16. "Real property" includes lands, tenements and hereditaments;
17. "Shall" imposes a duty;
18. "State" means the State of Iowa;
19. "Street" includes all streets, highways, avenues, lanes, alleys, courts, places, squares, curbs, or other public ways in this County which have been or may hereafter be dedicated and open to public use, or such other public property so designated in any law of this state;
20. "Tenant" and "occupant" applied to a building or land, includes any person who occupies whole or a part of such building or land, whether alone or with others;
21. "Title of Office". Use of the title of any officer, employee, board or commission means that officer, employee, department, board or commission of the County;
22. "Written" includes printed, typewritten, mimeographed or multigraphed;
23. "Year" means a calendar year;
24. All words and phrases shall be construed and understood according to the common and approved usage of the language; but technical words and phrases and such other as may have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in the law shall be construed and understood according to such peculiar and appropriate meaning
25. When an act is required by an Ordinance the same being such that it may be done as well by an agent as by the principal, such requirement shall be construed as to include all such acts performed by an authorized agent.

1-3-2 GRAMMATICAL INTERPRETATION. The following grammatical rules shall apply in the Ordinances of the County;

1. Gender. Any gender includes the other gender;

2. Singular and Plural. The singular number includes the plural and the plural includes the singular;

3. Tenses. Words used in the present tense include the past and the future tenses and vice versa;

4. Use of Words and Phrases. Words and phrases not specifically defined shall be construed according to the content and approved usage of the language.

1-3-3 PROHIBITED ACTS INCLUDE CAUSING, PERMITTING. Whenever in this Code any act or omission is made unlawful, it includes causing, allowing, permitting, aiding, abetting, suffering, or concealing the fact of such act or omission. A principal is responsible for the unauthorized acts or omissions committed by an agent or employee which have been authorized by the principal.

1-3-4 CONSTRUCTION. The provisions of this Code and all proceedings under it are to be construed with a view to affect its objects and to promote justice.

1-3-5 AMENDMENT. All Ordinances of the County passed thereafter shall be in the form of an addition or amendment to the Sac County Code of 2001 constituting this County Code, and shall include proper references to chapter and section to maintain the orderly codification of the Ordinances.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.2)

1-3-6 SEVERABILITY. If any section, provision or part of the County Code is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication will not affect the validity of the County Code as a whole or any section provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

1-3-7 RIGHT OF ENTRY. Whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce any Ordinance, or whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that there exists an Ordinance violation in any building or upon any premises within the jurisdiction of the County, any authorized official of the County may, upon presentation of proper credentials, enter such building or premises at all reasonable times to inspect the same and to perform any duty imposed upon such official by Ordinance; provided that, except in emergency situations, such official shall first give the owner and/or occupant, if they can be located after reasonable effort, twenty-four (24) hour written notice of the authorized official's intention to inspect. In the event the owner and/or occupant refuses entry, the official is empowered to seek assistance from any court of competent jurisdiction in obtaining such entry.