

CHAPTER 4

MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4.01 Municipal Infraction | 4.04 Civil Citations |
| 4.02 Environmental Violation | 4.05 Alternative Relief |
| 4.03 Penalties | 4.05A Habitual Violators |
| | 4.06 Criminal Penalties |

4.01 MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS. A violation of this Code of Ordinances or any ordinance or code herein adopted by reference or the omission or failure to perform any act or duty required by the same, with the exceptions of those provisions specifically provided under State law as a felony, an aggravated misdemeanor, or a serious misdemeanor, or a simple misdemeanor under Chapters 687 through 747 of the Code of Iowa, is a municipal infraction punishable by civil penalty as provided herein.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[3])

4.02 ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATION. A municipal infraction which is a violation of Chapter 455B of the Code of Iowa or of a standard established by the City in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, or both, may be classified as an environmental violation. However, the provisions of this section shall not be applicable until the City has offered to participate in informal negotiations regarding the violation or to the following specific violations:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[1])

1. A violation arising from noncompliance with a pretreatment standard or requirement referred to in 40 C.F.R. Sec. 403.8.
2. The discharge of airborne residue from grain, created by the handling, drying or storing of grain, by a person not engaged in the industrial production or manufacturing of grain products or by a person in such industrial production or manufacturing if such discharge occurs from September 15 to January 15.

4.03 PENALTIES. A municipal infraction is punishable by the following civil penalties:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[1])

1. Standard Civil Penalties.
 - A. First Offense – Not to exceed \$500.00
 - B. Each Repeat Offense – Not to exceed \$750.00

Each day that a violation occurs or is permitted to exist constitutes a repeat offense.

2. Special Civil Penalties.

A. A municipal infraction arising from noncompliance with a pretreatment standard or requirement, referred to in 40 C.F.R. Sec. 403.8, by an industrial user shall be punishable by a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each day a violation exists or continues.

B. A municipal infraction classified as an environmental violation shall be punishable by a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each occurrence. However, an environmental violation shall not be subject to such penalty if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The violation results solely from conducting an initial up, start-up, cleaning, repairing, performing scheduled maintenance, testing, or conducting a shutdown of either equipment causing the violation or the equipment designed to reduce or eliminate the violation.
- (2) The City is notified of the violation within twenty-four (24) hours from the time that the violation begins.
- (3) The violation does not continue in existence for more than eight (8) hours.

4.04 CIVIL CITATIONS. Any officer authorized by the City to enforce this Code of Ordinances may issue a civil citation to a person who commits a municipal infraction. The citation may be served by personal service as provided in Rule of Civil Procedure 56.1, by certified mail addressed to the defendant at defendant's last known mailing address, return receipt requested, or by publication in the manner as provided in Rule of Civil Procedure 60 and subject to the conditions of Rule of Civil Procedure 60.1. A copy of the citation shall be retained by the issuing officer, and one copy shall be sent to the Clerk of the District Court. The citation shall serve as notification that a civil offense has been committed and shall contain the following information:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[4])

1. The name and address of the defendant.

2. The name or description of the infraction attested to by the officer issuing the citation.
3. The location and time of the infraction.
4. The amount of civil penalty to be assessed or the alternative relief sought, or both.
5. The manner, location, and time in which the penalty may be paid.
6. The time and place of court appearance.
7. The penalty for failure to appear in court.

4.04A HABITUAL VIOLATORS. Any person who is given notice of violation of the same or similar type three times within a 36-month period, at any address in the city, shall be deemed to be a habitual violator.

4.05 ALTERNATIVE RELIEF.

1. Seeking a civil penalty as authorized in this chapter does not preclude the City from seeking alternative relief from the court in the same action. Such alternative relief may include, but is not limited to, an order for abatement or injunctive relief.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[8])

2. When it is determined by the City that a person is a habitual violator, the City may file a civil action in the district court seeking an order enjoining the person from further violation of this article on real estate owned or controlled by such person or real estate where such person acts as an agent, tenant, or lessee of any residential dwelling, commercial establishment and/or real estate within the City. The City may further request that upon entry of the injunction the court allow the City to abate further violations without notice an/or seek an order of contempt.

4.06 CRIMINAL PENALTIES. This chapter does not preclude a peace officer from issuing a criminal citation for a violation of this Code of Ordinances or regulation if criminal penalties are also provided for the violation. Nor does it preclude or limit the authority of the City to enforce the provisions of this Code of Ordinances by criminal sanctions or other lawful means.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[11])