

## CHAPTER 3

# MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS

3.01 Municipal Infraction  
3.02 Environmental Violation  
3.03 Penalties  
3.04 Civil Citations

3.05 Alternative Relief  
3.06 Criminal Penalties  
3.07 Failure to Pay a Civil Citation  
3.08 Habitual Offenders

**3.01 MUNICIPAL INFRACTION.** 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 exception 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.<sup>†</sup>

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

**3.02 ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATION.** A municipal infraction that 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. §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.
3. The discharge of airborne residue from grain, created by the handling, drying, or storing of grain, by a person engaged in such industrial production or manufacturing if such discharge occurs from September 15 to January 15.

**3.03 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 \$750.00
  - B. Each repeat offense – not to exceed \$1,000.00

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. §403.8, by an

---

<sup>†</sup> **EDITOR'S NOTE:** For criminal penalty for violations of this Code of Ordinances, see Section 1.14.

industrial user is punishable by a penalty of not more than \$1,000.00 for each day a violation exists or continues.

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

- (1) The violation results solely from conducting an initial startup, 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 24 hours from the time that the violation begins.
- (3) The violation does not continue in existence for more than eight hours.

**3.04 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. A copy of the citation may be served by personal service as provided in Rule of Civil Procedure 1.305, 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 1.310 and subject to the conditions of Rule of Civil Procedure 1.311. A copy of the citation shall be retained by the issuing officer, and the original citation 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.
8. The legal description of the affected real property, if applicable.

If the citation affects real property and charges a violation relating to the condition of the property, including a building code violation, a local housing regulation violation, a housing code violation, or a public health or safety violation, after filing the citation with the Clerk of the District Court, the City shall also file the citation in the office of the County Treasurer.

**3.05 ALTERNATIVE RELIEF.** 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[9])*

**3.06 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. In addition to any other provision of this Code of Ordinances specifying criminal penalties, the City hereby specifically provides for criminal penalties allowed by Iowa law for simple misdemeanors but specifically excluding imprisonment, for violations of the following:

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[12])*

1. Section 41.12, Discharge Firearm
2. Section 41.12, Throwing or Shooting Objects
3. Section 41.13, Urinating and Defecating
4. Section 55.02, Animal Neglect
5. Section 55.06, Animal at Large
6. Section 57.03, Keeping of Vicious Animals
7. Section 152.01, Removal of Weeds

**3.07 FAILURE TO PAY A CIVIL CITATION.**

1. Delinquent Offender. “Delinquent Offender” means any person that has at least one unpaid citation or municipal infraction of a violation of this Code of Ordinances that has remained unpaid for 120 days or more. It shall be a separate citable offense to be a Delinquent Offender of this Code of Ordinances. A Delinquent Offender administrative fee of \$35.00 may be assessed against any such offender, which fee shall be in addition to any fine otherwise due pursuant to this Code of Ordinances.

2. Collection. A default in the payment of a fine or penalty, or any installment of a fine or penalty, may be collected by any means allowable for the collection of monetary judgments. The City Attorney and/or a private collection agent may be retained for the purpose of collecting any default in payment or any fine or penalty or installment of a fine or penalty, or any combination thereof. Any fees or costs incurred by the City with respect to attorneys or private agents retained under this section shall be charged to the offender.

3. Denial of Licenses and Permits. In addition to any other means provided bylaw, the City may collect any past due citation fine, late payment charge, costs, taxes, or fees by declining to issue or renew any license, permit, zoning variance, or other permission applied for by the responsible party under this Code of Ordinances until the responsible party pays such fine, charge, costs, taxes, and fees.

**3.08 HABITUAL OFFENDERS.** “Habitual Offender” means any person that on at least three occasions within a 12-month period has: (i) received a citation, either civil or criminal, of a violation of this Code of Ordinances; or (ii) has had abatement action initiated against any property the habitual offender owns. It shall be a separate citable offense to be a Habitual Offender of this Code of Ordinances. A Habitual Offender administrative fee of \$35.00 may be assessed for each citation above three issued to the same violator within any 12-month period, which fee shall be in addition to any fine otherwise due pursuant to this Code of Ordinances.

[The next page is 21]