



COVINGTON CODE ENFORCEMENT GUIDE

**CITY OF COVINGTON
2194 EMORY ST. NW
COVINGTON, GA 30014**

Code Enforcement Guide 2024

CONTENTS

How Do You Report a Code Enforcement Violation?	3
What is the Code Enforcement Process?	4
Animals	5-6
Building Permits and Inspections	7
Business Registration	7
Home Occupation	8
Fences	8
Fence and Screening Walls	9
Household Garbage/Yard Waste	10
Inoperable Vehicles	11
Nuisances	12
Parking – Commercial Vehicles	13
Swimming Pools	13
Signs	14

This Code Enforcement Guide provides a brief overview of the most common code violations and questions, as well as the applicable section of the Municode and the Code of Ordinances for City of Covington. **The language contained in this document is not intended to substitute for the actual regulations, but to serve as a summary. If you have specific questions, please call City Staff or consult the online version of the Municode Library for City of Covington.**

For complete details and a full list of City of Covington codes referenced within this document, please visit one of the following for Code of Ordinances:

<https://www.cityofcovington.org/>

https://library.municode.com/ga/covington/codes/code_of_ordinances



City of Covington
2194 Emory Street NW
Covington, Georgia 30014
770-385-2000
• • •

City of Covington Code Enforcement
Danny Bartello: 678-625-5565
Erica Bessey: 678-342-5274



INTRODUCTION

The goal of the City of Covington Code Enforcement Program is to obtain voluntary compliance. Code Enforcement activities are intended to be carried out fairly, with sensitivity, and in a timely manner. Code Enforcement is handled by our Planning and Zoning Code Enforcement Department.

»» HOW DO YOU REPORT A CODE ENFORCEMENT VIOLATION?

Any resident, business, property owner, City staff member, the Mayor or City Councilmember can file a complaint alleging a violation of the City codes. The names of persons making a complaint are maintained in confidence by the city and are not released except during litigation or through an open records request. The City will accept anonymous complaints.

There are several ways to file a Code Enforcement complaint, including the following:



City of Covington, P.O. Box 1527, Covington, GA 30015



City of Covington City Hall, 2194 Emory Street NW, Covington, GA 30014



City of Covington Code Enforcement*

Danny Bartello: 678-625-5565 or Erica Bessey: 678-342-5274

***Please note: Code Enforcement handles these issues between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.**

What is the Code Enforcement Process?

HERE IS HOW THE PROCESS WORKS:

1. Complaint Received 

2. Initial Inspection (24 - 48 hours) Violation?

No  Case closed

YES 

3. Issue Notice of Violation Letter

4. Reinspection after 14 Days - Compliance?

Yes  Case Closed

NO 

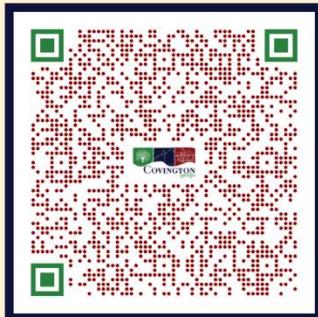
5. Citation Written – Court Date Issue

6. Court - Arraignment or Reset for Compliance or Fines
Assessed

6.06.010 Animals

Animals Running at Large – The owner of an animal, or any person having an animal in their custody, may not allow that animal to run at-large unattended on the streets and highways of the City of Covington, or on the property of another person without the permission of the owner or the person in possession of that property.

Animal Services – Newton County Animal Services provides domestic animal control services for the City of Covington. Contact Newton County Animal Control @ 770-786-9514, Monday – Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm. or Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Closed on Sunday. Officers are available after regular business hours for emergencies only. Emergencies include animal cruelty, animal bites, etc. by calling 911.



https://bit.ly/MuniCode_AnimalControl

» CHICKENS

Poultry (**ROOSTERS ARE NOT ALLOWED**) are permitted as a limited use in single family detached residences located in residential zoning districts. Poultry must be kept in such a manner that does not disturb the use or enjoyment of adjacent properties.



6.06.10 *Animals continued*

»» DOGS & CATS

It shall be the duty of every owner of any dog or cat or anyone having a dog or cat in his possession or custody, to ensure that it is under control, so that it cannot wander off of the real property limits of the owner. All female dogs and cats that have not been neutered and are in heat, must be securely confined in such a way that they not only cannot run loose, but also cannot be reached by other dogs or cats.



»» 6.12.010 WILDLIFE OR EXOTIC ANIMALS

It is unlawful within the corporate limits of the city for any person to possess, keep, permit, or allow a wild animal within any residence or within three hundred (300) feet of a residence or building used for human habitation.



5.04.010 Building Application Work Flow

1. Receive application, construction plans & documents
2. Process application and route for plan review
3. Complete plan reviews, transmit plan review comments to applicant
4. Process submitted plans and documents
5. Receive all required documents & payments
6. Issue permit & approved plans

BUILDING PERMIT & INSPECTION

A permit is required to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure. A permit is also required to erect, install enlarge, alter, remove, convert, or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing system.

The permitting process typically includes a building plan review and inspection of projects from the beginning of construction to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Permit applications are accepted in person in our Planning & Zoning Department Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Permit Applications are accessible online by clicking on the attached QR code.



https://bit.ly/COV_BuildingForms

5.04.010 BUSINESS REGISTRATION

A Business License (Occupation Tax Certificate) is required for each person engaged in business, trade or occupation that has an office location in the City of Covington. This includes home-based or commercial/traditional-based business. The certificate must be displayed on the business premises.

https://bit.ly/MuniCode_OccupationTax





Home Business & Occupation

16.20.350 Home Occupations

It is the intent and purpose of this section to provide for certain types of restricted occupational uses within NR1, NR2, NR3, CR and TCR zoning districts. Such uses are restricted to those which:

1. Are incidental to the use of the premises as a residence
2. Are compatible with residential uses
3. Do not detract from the residential character of the neighborhood

https://bit.ly/MuniCode_HomeOccupations



16.32.070 Fence and Hedges

A. Corner Visibility: On corner lots within all zoning districts, no fence, shrubbery, or other obstruction to traffic line of sight vision shall exceed a height of two and one-half feet within the triangular area formed by the intersection of right-of-way lines at two points measured twenty (20) feet along the property line from the intersection. Within said triangle there shall be no sight obscuring wall, fence or foliage higher than thirty (30) inches above grade or in the case of trees, foliage lower than eight feet. Vertical measurement shall be made at the top of the curb on the street or alley adjacent to the nearest side of the triangle or if no curb exists, from the edge of the nearest traveled way.

16.32.070 Fence and Hedges continued

B. Measurement Rule: Heights of fences, hedges, and other continuous foliage shall be measured from the adjacent top of the street curb, surface of an alley, or the official established grade thereof, whichever is higher. Along interior lot lines, the measurement shall be from the average grade of the lot line of the parcel on which the fence is located.

C. Exceptions: The mayor and council may approve, or may direct as a condition for granting approval, that fences or plantings of a height in excess of these regulations be placed as shielding between different uses, or between like uses upon agreement between the parties affected thereby, provided that no such approval shall have the effect of reducing corner visibility as provided for herein.

16.32.220 Walls and Fences

The setback requirements of this zoning ordinance shall not prohibit any necessary retaining wall or fence except that in a NR1, NR2 or NR3 zoning district:

- A.** Front yard fences and walls shall not exceed forty-two (42) inches in height and shall not extend into the public right-of-way.
- B.** Front yard fences shall be within six (6) inches of the property line and shall not be made of wire, woven metal, or chain link unless located on property of an agricultural or undeveloped use or of a lot size larger than three (3) acres.
- C.** Ornamental or decorative fences constructed of brick, stone, stucco, split rail, wood or wrought iron and not constructed of exposed block, tires, junk or other discarded material shall be permitted within the front yard setback.
- D.** No fence or wall shall exceed eight (8) feet in height within a rear or side yard.
- E.** Retaining walls located adjacent to a sidewalk along a public street shall not exceed a height of two (2) feet and the combined height of a fence where otherwise authorized and retaining wall shall not exceed a height of five (5) feet, unless existing topography prohibits retaining walls of a lesser height. Retaining walls shall be from finished poured concrete or shall be faced with stone, brick or smooth stucco.



Scan the QR code to access the
Fence Permit Application

https://bit.ly/COV_FencePermit_Application



8.04.055 Collection of Household Garbage -Roll Cart System

Except as provided in this section the roll cart system shall be the only approved method of collecting household garbage from residential customers in the city and shall be conducted and administered pursuant to the following regulations. Place all items inside the cart close the lid completely and roll the can to the edge of the curb. Place the cart at the edge of the curbside with the wheels and handle facing the house and the lid opening toward the street. Make sure there is nothing in front of the cart and at least three feet of space or clearance on all other sides.



https://bit.ly/MuniCode_GarbageRollCart

8.04.100 Disposal of Yard Waste

The City or its contractor will provide periodic collection and disposal of yard waste pursuant to the regulations found by scanning the QR code:



https://bit.ly/MuniCode_YardWaste



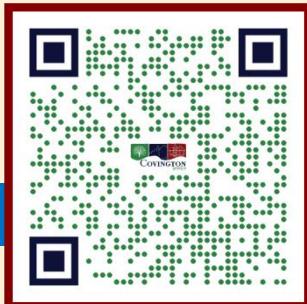
8.16.010 Inoperable Vehicles

An inoperative condition shall include, but not be limited to, any automobile, truck, vehicle, mobile machinery or trailer of any kind or type, or part thereof, the condition of which is one or more of the following:

1. WRECKED
2. DISMANTLED
3. PARTIALLY DISMANTLED
4. INOPERATIVE
5. ABANDONED
6. DISCARDED
7. ONE WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A VALID LICENSE PLATE ATTACHED HERETO



https://bit.ly/MuniCode_InoperativeVehicles



8.12.010 Nuisances

A nuisance is anything that works hurt, inconveniences, or damage to those persons who come within its scope of operation or effect, though it may vary in its effects on individuals; and the fact that the act or thing or condition complained of may otherwise be lawful shall not keep it from being a nuisance. The inconvenience herein referred to shall not be fanciful, or such as would affect only one of fastidious taste, but it shall be such as would affect an ordinary reasonable person.

8.12.020 SPECIFIED ACTS, THINGS, CONDITION OR NOISES CONSTITUTING NUISANCES

The following are specifically declared to be nuisances: any building, structure or condition maintained in violation of any ordinance of this city; any continued act of omission or commission prohibited by any ordinance of this city; and any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise made or continued or caused or allowed to be made or continued in violation of any ordinance of this city.

Residential 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m.

Multifamily Dwelling 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m.

Commercial 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m.

Industrial At all times

Animals: The owning, possessing or harboring of any animal which frequently, or for continued duration, howls, barks, meows, squawks or makes other sounds which create excessive and unnecessary noise across a residential or commercial real property line or within a noise-sensitive area. For the purpose of this chapter, "barking dog" shall mean a dog that barks, bays, cries, howls or makes any other noise continually and/or incessantly for a period of ten (10) minutes, or barks intermittently for one-half hour or more to the disturbance of any person at any time of day or night, regardless of whether the dog is physically situated in or upon private property; provided, however, that a dog shall not be deemed a "barking dog" if, at the time the dog is barking or making any other noise, a person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon property in or upon which the dog is situated.

https://bit.ly/MuniCode_Nuisances





10.08.010 Parking of Commercial Vehicles in Residential Districts

In all districts of the city zoned NR-1, NR-2, NR-3, CR and TCR, the parking of any commercial vehicle (other than an automobile, pickup truck, panel truck or van used to provide daily transportation to and from work; or a commercial vehicle parked temporarily while making a delivery or providing a service) and any vehicle identified by the Federal Highway Administration's Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey as having a gross vehicle weight rating class greater than "3" shall be prohibited except under the following circumstances:



https://bit.ly/MuniCode_PkgCommVehicles

16.20.690 Swimming Pools Residential

Swimming pools accessory to residences shall be enclosed by a security fence of a minimum height of five feet with a gate containing a self-closing positive latch device to ensure that the pool is enclosed at all times. Health department approval shall be required prior to issuance of a building permit. The fence and gate shall be installed prior to filling the pool with water.

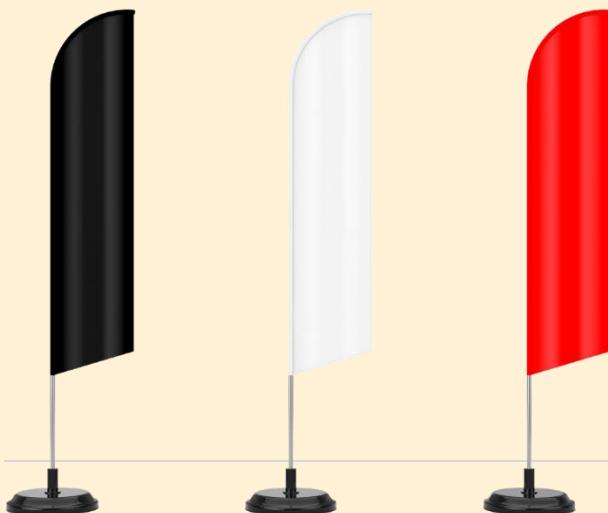


https://bit.ly/MuniCode_SwimmingPools

16.48.010 Signs

Signs Permitted in the TCR, CR, NR1, NR2 and NR3 Zoning Districts:

1. Signs on a parcel zoned TCR, CR, NR1, NR2, and/or NR3 shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet; provided that during the period of time commencing with opening of qualifying for elections and concluding with the final determination of all contests and issues resolved by that election, an unlimited number of standard informational signs may be erected.
2. No sign shall be erected to a height greater than four feet.
3. Ground signs are allowed subject to the limitation of one per road frontage. Internal illumination is prohibited. Such sign(s) may be illuminated with external lighting fixtures provided that fixtures are directed away from streets and adjacent properties.
4. All signs erected shall be supported by independent means by use of a wooden stake or metal frame inserted directly into the ground.
5. Parcels may contain standard informational signs, subject to the aggregate sign area allowance, without a permit fee, placed so that they are located entirely on private property.
6. Window signs are allowed subject to the limitation of one per dwelling not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the area of the window.
7. No sign erected in the TCR, CR, NR1, NR2 and/or NR3 zoning district shall be illuminated except as permitted in subsection A.3. above.



https://bit.ly/MuniCode_Signs