

Current Warrenton Camping Codes

Chapter 12.28 CAMPING

12.28.010 Definitions.

“To camp” means to set up, or to remain in or at a campsite, for the purposes of establishing or maintaining a temporary place to live.

“Camp site” means any place where any bedding, sleeping bag, or other sleeping matter, or any stove or fire is placed, established, or maintained, whether or not such place incorporates the use of any tent, lean-to, shack, or any structure, or any vehicle or part thereof. (Ord. 1179-A § 3, 2013)

12.28.020 Public property.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to camp in or upon any public property or public right-of-way, unless otherwise specifically authorized by this code or by declaration by the Mayor or City Commission in emergency circumstance.
- B. No person shall use any vehicle or trailer for lodging purposes upon the streets, public property, or public beach of the City, or otherwise use the streets or public beach for camping or lodging.
- C. No person shall use any vehicle or trailer for camping or lodging purposes upon any private or public parking lots except as provided in this chapter.
- D. The City of Warrenton recognizes the social nature of the problem of homeless individuals camping on public property and has developed this code and policy to ensure the most humane treatment for removal of homeless individuals from camping sites on public property. (Ord. 1179-A § 3, 2013)

12.28.030 Use of RV on private residential property.

- A. No recreational vehicle or trailer shall be used for sleeping or lodging purposes outside of designated camping areas except by special permit from the City, said permit to be limited to one vehicle only at any one time. Permits may be obtained from City Hall for a period of up to 48 hours for parking of recreational vehicles on private residential property that is not designated as a camping area. Permits must be obtained in advance of parking the recreational vehicle or trailer in residential areas.
- B. Parking must be in such a manner as not to cause a traffic hazard. There can be no discharge of wastes of any sort except into proper sewer or septic systems. (Ord. 1179-A § 4, 2013)

12.28.040 Use of RV for seasonal businesses.

Special permits for seasonal businesses may be issued for no more than one recreational vehicle as registered to owner/manager of said business, for up to four months upon application and approval by the Commission of the City of Warrenton. Application, approval and issuance of the permit must take place before the recreational vehicle is placed upon the property. The unit must not create a traffic hazard and cannot discharge wastes of any kind except into proper sewer or septic systems. Arrangements must be made with the Sanitation Department for regular pickup of garbage. (Ord. 1179-A § 5, 2013)

12.28.050 Camping by homeless on property of religious institutions.

- A. Camping may be allowed by churches, synagogues, and similar religious institutions to offer overnight camping space on institution property to homeless persons living in vehicles or tents.
- B. The camping must be temporary and limited to 72 hours, which may be extended with approval of the Police Chief.
- C. The camping space site is limited to three or fewer vehicles or camping sites at the same time.

D. The religious institution must provide the campers with access to sanitary facilities, including, but not limited to, toilet, hand washing, and trash disposal facilities. (Ord. 1179-A § 6, 2013)

12.28.060 Campsite removal and clean-up.

- A. Prior to removing homeless individuals from an established camping site, a notice will be posted written in English and Spanish, 24 hours in advance.
- B. At the time of the 24-hour notice posting, any local agencies that deliver social services to homeless individuals will be notified of where the notice has been posted. The local agency may arrange for outreach workers to visit the camping site where notice has been posted to assess the need for social service assistance in arranging shelter and other assistance.
- C. All unclaimed personal property shall be stored for a minimum of 30 days during which it will be reasonably available to any individual claiming ownership. Any personal property that remains unclaimed for 30 days may be disposed of. For the purposes of this subsection, "personal property" means any item that is reasonably recognizable as belonging to a person and that has apparent utility. Items that have no apparent utility or are in an insanitary condition may be immediately discarded upon removal of the homeless individuals from the camping site. Weapons, drug paraphernalia and items that appear to be either stolen or evidence of a crime shall be given to law enforcement officials.
- D. Following the removal of homeless individuals from a camping site on public property, the law enforcement officials, local agency officials, and outreach workers may meet to assess the notice and removal policy, to discuss whether the removals are occurring in a humane and just manner and to determine if any changes are needed in the policy.
- E. The 24-hour notice required under subsection A of this section shall not apply:
 - 1. When there are grounds for law enforcement officials to believe that illegal activities other than camping are occurring;
 - 2. In the event of an exceptional emergency such as possible site contamination by hazardous materials or when there is immediate danger to human life or safety;
 - 3. A person authorized to issue a citation for unlawful camping under State law, administrative rule or City or County ordinance may not issue the citation if the citation would be issued within 200 feet of the notice described in this section and within two hours before or after the notice was posted.
- F. The following areas do not apply to regulations from Section 12.28.050 or this section:
 - 1. Public property that is a day use recreational area;
 - 2. Public property that is a designated campground and occupied by an individual under an agreement with the City or County. (Ord. 1179-A § 7, 2013)

12.28.070 Enforcement and penalty.

Anyone in violation of this chapter will be cited by the Warrenton Police Department. Violations are punishable by a fine of not more than \$300.00. (Ord. 1179-A § 8, 2013)