

BRECKNOCK TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY  
889 ALLEGHENYVILLE ROAD, MOHNTON, PA 19540

**ALARM DEVICE PERMIT APPLICATION**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of Birth (if individual): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Home or Principal Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Business) \_\_\_\_\_

4. If above information is for a company, list name, date of birth, address and telephone number of chief officer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Location inside residence where alarm device will be installed and operated:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two individuals who have keys to the premises at which the alarm device is located and who are authorized to enter the premises at any time but who do not reside at the location of the alarm device:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**AND** the name, address and telephone number of the security service company which provides alarm services at the premises and which has on file the names of such authorized key holders.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Attach a complete description of the alarm device, including a copy of operating instruction and whether same is coordinated with any other antipersonnel device(s) **OR** the name, address and telephone number of a security service company which has in its possession knowledge or data describing the alarm device and its operation instructions.

---

8. Name, address and telephone number of any person from whom the alarm device is to be leased or rented or is to be serviced pursuant to a service agreement.

---

9. Submit a fee of \$10.00 with application to cover the cost of issuing the permit.

10. The following statement must be signed:

“I (we), the undersigned Applicant(s) for an alarm Device Permit, intending to be legally bound hereby, state that neither I (we), nor anyone claiming by, through or under me (us), shall make any claim against the Township of Brecknock for any damage caused to the premises at which the Alarm Device, which is the subject of this application, is or will be located, if such damage is caused by a forced entry to said premises by employees of the Township in order to answer an alarm from said alarm device at a time which said premises are or appear to be unattended or when, in the discretion of said employees, circumstances appear to warrant a forced entry.

Further, I (we) hereby agree that periodically and upon five (5) days written notice, representatives of the Township Police or Fire Department shall be allowed to enter my (our) premises between the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM on weekdays for the purpose of inspecting my (our) alarm device installation in order to determine whether or not it is in accordance with the operational standards set forth in Ordinance No. 89 of the Township of Brecknock.”

---

11. Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant(s)

Note: A copy of Ordinance No. 89 is attached.

\*\*\*\*\*

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproval: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Disapproval: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Police Officer

Date

(13, PART 1)

13-3

**PART 1**

**ALARM DEVICES**

**§13-101. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this Part the following terms are defined as follows:

**ALARM** - a communication indicating or warning that a crime, fire or other emergency situation warranting immediate action by the Township police or local

fire companies has occurred or is occurring.

**ALARM DEVICE** - a privately owned and operated electronic, electrical, mechanical or similar device designed to transmit an alarm by wire, telephone, radio, audible signal (bell, siren or buzzer) or other means to the Township police,

any person or firm who or which is instructed to notify the Township police or any

person who is within the sound transmission distance limits of such audible signal.

**FALSE ALARM** - an alarm (excluding those operated by internal alarm devices) to which the Township police or local fire companies respond, resulting from the activation of an alarm device when it appears that a crime, fire or other emergency warranting immediate action by the Township police or local fire companies has not occurred at the premises where the alarm was transmitted.

**PERMIT HOLDER** - a person to whom the Township of Brecknock has issued an

alarm device permit.

**PERSON** - an individual, corporation, partnership, incorporated association or other legal entity.

*(Ord. 89, 8/5/1997, §1)*

**§13-102. Permits.**

1. It shall be unlawful for a property owner, lessee of property or a person otherwise

occupying a premises in the Township to put an alarm device into operation on his

or its premises without first obtaining an alarm device permit from the Township

Secretary.

2. In order to apply for an alarm device permit, a person shall submit an application

to the Township of Brecknock stating the following:

A. His or its name.

**LICENSES, PERMITS AND GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS**

13-4

B. His or its home address and/or principal business address and the telephone number of each.

- C. The location at which the alarm device will be installed and operated.
- D. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two individuals who have keys to the premises at which the alarm device is located and who are authorized to enter the premises at any time, but who do not reside at the location of the alarm device, or in lieu thereof, the name, address and telephone number of a security service company which provides alarm services at the premises and which has on file with it the names of such authorized key holder.
- E. A complete description of the alarm device, including a copy of operating instruction and whether same is coordinated with any other antipersonnel device(s); or, in lieu thereof, the name, address and telephone number of a security service company which has in its possession knowledge or date describing the alarm device and its operation instructions.
- F. If the alarm device is to be leased or rented from, or is to be serviced pursuant to a service agreement, a person other than the person making application for an alarm device permit, the name, address and telephone number of that person. In addition, each person submitting an application for an alarm device permit shall submit a signed statement in the following form:

“I (We), the undersigned applicant(s) for an alarm device permit, intending to be legally bound hereby, state that neither I (We), nor anyone claiming by, through or under me (us), shall make any claim against the Township of Brecknock for any damage caused to the premises at which the alarm device, which is subject to this application, is or will be located if such damage is caused by a forced entry to said premises by employees of the Township in order to answer an alarm from said alarm device at a time which said premises are or appear to be unattended or when, in the discretion of said employees, circumstances appear to warrant a forced entry.

Further, I (We) hereby agree that periodically and upon 5 days written notice, representatives of the Township police or fire department shall be allowed to enter my (our) premises between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays for the purposes of inspecting my (our) alarm device installation in order to determine whether or not it is in accordance with the operational standards set forth in Ordinance 89 of the Township of Brecknock.

(13, PART 1)

13-5

The Township of Brecknock shall furnish forms upon which any person wishing to apply for an alarm device permit may submit his application.

3. A person applying for an alarm device permit shall submit a fee, which shall be in an amount as established by resolution, from time to time, by the Township

Supervisors, along with his application to cover the cost of issuing the permit.  
[Ord. 141]

4. The Township Police Department and/or Fire Department shall, within 10 weekdays from receipt of an application for an alarm device permit, either grant an alarm device permit to the applicant or notify the applicant in writing that his

or its application has been denied and the reason or reasons why it has been denied.

5. An application for an alarm device permit may only be denied for the following reasons:

A. The application submitted by the applicant does not conform with subsection (1) and (2) above.

B. The applicant's alarm device does not conform with the operational standards set forth in §13-103 of this Part.

6. Notwithstanding the language contained in subsection (1) above, it shall not be

unlawful for a person to continue to operate an alarm device on his premises without an alarm device permit for a period of 90 days after the effective date of this part provided that said alarm device was in operation on the effective date of this Part. Thereafter the provisions of this Section shall apply.

7. The Township Police Department shall have the power to revoke an alarm device

permit. An alarm device permit shall be revoked by notifying the permit holder in writing that his alarm device permit has been revoked and the reason or reasons why it has been revoked. Said written notice shall be:

A. Delivered personally to the permit holder, in which case the revocation shall be effective immediately upon delivery.

B. Mailed to the permit holder at his last known address by regular mail, postage prepaid, in which case the revocation shall be effective 3 days after mailing.

8. An alarm device permit may only be revoked for the following reasons:

A. Failure of an alarm device to conform with the operational standards set forth in §13-103 of this Part.

## LICENSES, PERMITS AND GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS

13-6

B. Failure of a permit holder to pay a false alarm charge assessed to him by the Township police and/or fire company under the provisions of §13-105 of this part within 30 days of the mailing to him of a notice of the assessment of a false alarm charge.

C. The occurrence of an intentional false alarm caused by the permit holder or by an individual over the age of 15 who resides on the premises where the alarm device is located.

9. A person who has had his alarm device permit revoked under subsections (7) and

(8) of §13-102 may reapply for an alarm device permit 45 days after the effective date of such revocation; provided, however, that if a person's alarm device permit

was revoked for nonpayment of a false alarm charge, the Township Police Department shall deny said application unless such charge or fee or both have been paid. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person who has had his alarm device

permit twice revoked on the basis of an occurrence of an intentional face alarm may not reapply for the alarm device permit for 1 year from the effective of the second revocation.

(*Ord. 89, 8/5/1997, §2; as amended by Ord. 141, 8/3/2004, §1*)

**§13-103. Operational Standards.**

1. If an alarm device is designed to transmit a recorded message, the duration of such recorded message shall not exceed 15 seconds. The contents of said message shall be intelligible and in a form approved by the Township police and/or Township fire company representatives.

2. Except in the case of fire, smoke and personal safety alarm devices, an alarm device shall be designed so that a 30 second delay occurs between the time the alarm device receives a triggering stimulus and the time the alarm device transmits an alarm.

3. If an alarm device is designed to cause an exterior bell, siren or sound-making device to be activated on or near the premises on which the alarm device is installed at the time it gives; an alarm, said alarm device shall be designed to deactivate the bell, siren or other sound-making device after 20 minutes of operation.

4. At the time of installation all alarm devices shall meet the applicable standards

of the Underwriters Laboratories and/or the National Fire Protection Association and/or other recognized industry standards. The applicant for a permit may be required to submit evidence of the reliability and suitability and of the alarm device.

(13, PART 1)

13-7

5. The sensory mechanism used in connection with an alarm device must be adjusted

to suppress false indications of fire or intrusion so that the alarm device will not be activated by impulses due to transient pressure change in water pipes, short flashes of light, wind noise such as the rattling or vibrating of doors or windows, vehicular noises adjacent to the premises or other forces unrelated to genuine alarm situations.

6. The alarm device must be maintained by the permit holder in good repair to assure reliability of operation.

7. Representatives of the Township Police and/or Fire Company shall, periodically

and upon 5 days written notice, have the authority to enter the premises at which

an alarm device is located between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays for the purpose of inspecting the alarm device installation in order to determine whether or not it is in accordance with the operational standards set forth in this

Section. Said representatives may require the repairs be made whenever he has determined that such are necessary to assure proper operation.

(*Ord. 89, 8/5/1997, §3*)

**§13-104. Intentional False Alarms.**

It shall be unlawful to cause an intentional false alarm.

(*Ord. 89, 8/5/1997, §4*)

**§13-105. False Alarm Charges.**

1. A permit holder shall pay the Township a charge for each false alarm emanating

from his alarm device during any calendar year, which charge shall be in an amount as established by resolution, from time to time, by the Township Supervisors. [*Ord. 141*]

2. When a false alarm occurs, the Township Police Department, within 10 days from

the date of each false alarm, shall notify the permit holder of the alarm device from which the false alarm emanated that a false alarm charge is due and the amount thereof, if any. Such notice shall be in writing and mailed to the permit holder at his last known address by regular mail, postage prepaid. Failure of the Township Police Department to mail notice of assessment of a false alarm charge

LICENSES, PERMITS AND GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS

13-8

within 10 days from the occurrence of a false alarm shall preclude Township from assessing a false alarm charge for said false alarm.

3. A false alarm charge shall be due and payable at the office of the Township Secretary 30 days from the date of the mailing of the notice of assessment of the false alarm charge.

4. Failure of a permit holder to pay a false alarm charge on or before the due date

shall subject such permit holder to revocation under §13-102 of this Part.

5. In the case of a new installation of an alarm device, a 30 day testing period shall

apply to allow the security service company and the applicant to adjust the system

as necessary to prevent a false alarm. During this 30 day period a false alarm charge shall not be assessed.

(*Ord. 89, 8/5/1997, §5; as amended by Ord. 141, 8/3/2004, §1*)

**§13-106. Liability of Township.**

The issuance of any permit shall not constitute acceptance by Township of any liability

to maintain any equipment, to answer alarms or for any other responsibility in connection therewith.

(*Ord. 89, 8/5/1997, §6*)

**§13-107. Right to Appeal.**

Whenever, under the provisions of this Part, the Township police are empowered to

make a decision with respect to the installation, operation, maintenance or of abuse of use of any alarm device or with respect to the denial or revocation of any permit relating thereto, any applicant for a permit or permit holder aggrieved by said decision may, within 10 days following said decision, file a written appeal therefrom with the Board of Supervisors of Brecknock Township, whereupon said Board of Supervisors shall promptly conduct a hearing and affirm, modify or reverse the decision appealed from. The decision of the Board of Supervisors of Brecknock Township shall be final.

*(Ord. 89, 8/5/1997, §7)*

**§13-108. Penalties.**

Any person, firm or corporation who shall commit an unlawful act under §§13-102 or 13-104 of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a district justice in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000

(13, PART 1)

13-9