

CHANGE IN POLICY

TEMPORARY DISCONNECTION OF WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

Whereas, the Allegany County Sanitary Commission determined that it is necessary to adopt the following Temporary One Year Disconnection of Water and Sewer Service policy.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that the Allegany County Sanitary Commission, the governing body of the Allegany County Sanitary District, Inc., pursuant to the provisions of Section 658 of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, does hereby certify to the County Commissioners of Allegany County that it is necessary to adopt the following Temporary One Year Disconnection of Water and Sewer Service Policy.

1. An existing water or sewer customer may request, in writing, disconnection of an abandoned structure for sewer and water service if no fixtures are in the structure. The Utilities Division will visit the site to evaluate the structure prior to the disconnection.
2. When the structure is deemed unoccupied, the water service will be disconnected by the Utilities Division by removing the water meter.
3. The customer must acknowledge in writing that if water and/or sewer service is not restored after one year or full charge being paid; new current connection fees will be charged. The connection fees are subject to change. Currently, they are \$750 for water and \$750 for sewer plus the cost of labor and material. Allegany County will provide the disconnection request form for signature.
4. In some County water and sewer districts, the funding agencies that participated in the original construction, require 100% customer participation in the form of a minimum service charge payment.
5. A newly acquired property, by purchase, or estate settlement, provided that all past due utility bills are paid, will be required to pay 25% of the minimum charges, provided the home is not fit to be occupied and a major renovation is underway up to a maximum of two years. The water meter will be removed by the County. All fixtures do not need removed. The Utilities Division will confirm the renovation is underway. After two years, the property must begin paying full charges or permanently remove fixtures.
6. A major disaster, such as a fire that renders the home unfit to be occupied, would be treated the same as Item 5, as previously stated, for up to two years.

7. Existing houses that are being abandoned by the homeowner to be used for storage or for possible future remodel, will follow the existing policy that requires fixture removal and repayment of tap fee, when reconnected.
8. In all cases, the neighboring homes will be given notice of the situation of the disconnected property. Also informing them that connecting or allowing the house to be connected to the adjacent property is illegal and considered theft, subject to legal action, and as a minimum, be assessed the County service tampering fee of \$250 per service. This tampering fee would also be assessed to the disconnected property.
9. Any occupancy violation of the policies by the property owner will be subject to payment of past due utility bills based on the County's sole determination of costs and the utility tampering fee, with collection enforced by liens and/or more aggressive disconnection measures.

This Change in Policy was approved by the Sanitary Commission at its May 22, 2018 public meeting and by the Allegany County Commissioners at their June 7, 2018 public meeting.

4/30/2019
Date

4/30/2019
Date

W. Stephen Young
W. Stephen Young P.E., Chairman

Jason M. Bennett
Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer