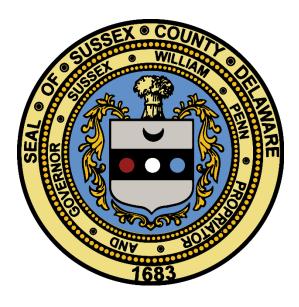
### SUSSEX COUNTY DELAWARE



## PLANNING AND ZONING

Reference Guide

A reference for citizens seeking information on Building Permits. For specific information, please contact the Planning and Zoning Department at (302) 855-7878.

# This reference guide provides information for many commonly asked Building Permit questions:

#### **Setback (definition)**

A minimum distance which a building or other structure must be set back from a lot line

#### **Decks and Porches**

- Unenclosed decks, steps, porches, platforms, etc. may encroach 5 ft. into the front yard setback and 5 ft. from rear and side property line. If it has a roof, awning (ex. portico), or is enclosed, it shall not encroach into the setbacks.
- Patios under 6 inches in height may go to the property line
- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and higher decks shall comply with the setbacks that apply to the house

#### **Accessory Structures**

Sheds, detached garages, pole buildings, etc.

- If under 600 SF, they may be located 5 ft. from the side and rear property lines
- If 600 SF or over, they shall comply with the setbacks that apply to the house

#### Fences, Walls & Signs - Residential

- Fences may go on the property line
- Maximum height in the front yard setback is 3 ½ ft.
- Maximum height in the side and rear yards is 7 ft.
- Maximum height for corner visibility is 3 ½ ft.

# Fences, Walls & Signs – Commercial, Industrial or Agricultural

- Fences may go on the property line
- Maximum height at a corner is 3 ½ ft.
- Planning Director may approve height over 7 ft.

### **Swimming Pools**

- Shall be 10 ft. from side property line
- Shall be 6 ft. from rear property line
- Shall have a 3 ft. walk space between wall of pool and fence or barrier wall
- Shall have a 4 ft. safety fence or barrier wall
- Aboveground decks may be 5 ft. from side and rear property lines

#### **Other Encroachments into Setbacks**

- AC units may encroach into the setbacks a maximum of 3 ft.
- Sills, belt courses, chimneys, cornices and ornamental features may encroach into the setbacks a maximum of 2 ft.

#### **Small Lots**

- Lots less than 10, 000 SF that are not part of a cluster subdivision, ESDDOZ subdivision or RPC
  - Average front yard setback, not less than 5 ft.
  - 5 ft. side yard setback
  - Rear yard setback reduced 5 ft.
- Accessory structures shall comply with 5 ft. setback (ex. HVAC, chimneys, decks, etc.)

#### **Animals – Private (Personal Use)**

- On a farm of less than 5 acres
  - Less than 4 cows, 8 sheep, 8 goats and 8 hogs
  - Less than 99 chickens
- Stable for horses
  - Private 4 or fewer horses or mules

#### **Animals – Public (Commercial Use)**

- On a farm of 5 acres or more
  - More than 4 cows, 8 sheep, 8 goats and 8 hogs
  - 100 + chickens
- Stable for horses
  - Public more than 4 horses or mules

#### **Permits Required for:**

- Single and multi-family dwellings, manufactured housing (including replacement), commercial construction
- Accessory structures (garages, sheds, gazebos, carports, playhouses, pole buildings, agricultural buildings, pools, solar panels, retaining walls)
- Additions and renovations (porches, sunrooms, decks, fireplace, siding, structural roofing, interior/exterior renovations, finished basements, patios, fences)

# Manufactured Homes in AR-1 and AR-2 Zoning District

- Lot with no previous manufactured home:
  - Minimum lot size is ¾ ac. (32,670 SF)
  - Multi-sectional only (double wide)
  - Home can not to be more than 5 years old
- Lot with existing manufactured home:
  - May replace manufactured home with a new manufactured home per the following:
    - Single wide to single wide -OK
    - Single wide to double wide -OK

- Double wide to double wide -OK
- Double wide to single wide -NO
- Home shall be newer than the existing home (ex. 1980 replaced with 1981)
- Minimum size of manufactured home is 450 SF

#### **Manufactured Homes in Park**

- Minimum size of manufactured home is 450 SF
- 20 ft. separation distance between other dwellings and accessory structures (includes decks and porches)
- Maximum lot coverage is 35%
- Setback is 10 ft. if newer park see planning
- Setback is 5 ft. if older park see planning
- Accessory structures may be 5 ft. from lot lines; however, shall still comply with 20 ft. separation distance

#### **Board of Adjustment**

 Application for a variance to the County Zoning Code or a special use exception can be made to the Board of Adjustment through the Planning and Zoning Office

Planning and Zoning Department 2 The Circle PO Box 417 Georgetown, DE 19947

Phone: (302) 855-7878 Fax: (302) 854-5079

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