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Opinion No. 01-057

Requirement for Street Number Display

QUESTION

Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-86-127(c) authorizes any city or county, or emergency communications district with authority delegated by the city or county legislative body, to "establish and enforce policies for the assignment and posting requirements of property numbers." Does this statute authorize the local government to establish and enforce policies requiring homeowners and businesses to mark their establishments clearly with their street number?

OPINION

Yes, the term "posting" would include the manner in which street numbers are displayed.

ANALYSIS

This opinion concerns whether, under Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-86-127, a city, county, or emergency communications district may establish and enforce policies that would require homeowners or businesses to mark their establishments clearly with their street number. Under this statute, unless expressly provided otherwise by law, the authority to name roads and to assign property numbers is vested in the legislative bodies of counties for unincorporated areas, and cities within their incorporated boundaries. The exercise of this authority must be in a manner acceptable to the United States postal service. Under subsection (b) of this statute, the county commission or city council may delegate this authority to the emergency communications district. Subsection (c) provides:

> (c) Any county or city, including districts with delegated authority, may establish and impose reasonable fees and enforce policies relating to the changing of names of roads and streets, and may establish and enforce policies for the assignment and *posting requirements* of property numbers.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-86-127(c) (emphasis added). In this context, we think the term "posting" clearly includes the manner in which street numbers are displayed. For this reason, this statute

authorizes local governments to establish and enforce policies requiring homeowners and businesses to mark their establishments clearly with their street number.

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