

*** Current through the 2014 Regular Session ***

Title 68 Health, Safety and Environmental Protection
Safety
Chapter 110 Organized Camps

Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-110-101 (2014)

68-110-101. Chapter definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of health or the commissioner's authorized representative;

(2) "Department" means the department of health;

(3) (A) "Organized camp" means any area, place, parcel, or tract of land on which facilities are established or maintained to provide an outdoor group-living experience for children or adults, or where one (1) or more permanent or semipermanent structures are established or maintained as living or sleeping quarters for children or adults, and operated for educational, social, recreational, religious instruction or activity, physical education or health, or vacation purposes either gratuitously or for compensation;

(B) "Organized camp" is not intended to include a hunting, fishing or other camp privately owned and used exclusively for the personal pleasure of the owner and the owner's guests;

(C) "Organized camp" is not intended to include a camp site on property owned by a church and used exclusively for the personal pleasure of the members of the church and such member's guests, if:

(i) No permanent or semipermanent structures or buildings are established or maintained on the camp site as living or sleeping quarters, restrooms, or for a cafeteria or kitchen, to provide an outdoor group-living experience for children or adults;

(ii) The camp site is used for occasional weekend or overnight camping experiences for such persons; and

(iii) The camp site contains no electrical, sewage or water hookups or pads to accommodate travel trailers, truck coaches or campers, tent campers and other similar

camping vehicles;

(4) "Person" means any and all persons, including any:

(A) Individual, firm, or association;

(B) Municipal or private corporation organized or existing under the laws of this or any other state;

(C) State;

(D) Municipality, commission, or political subdivision of a state;

(E) Interstate body;

(F) Governmental agency of this state; and

(G) Department, agency or instrumentality of the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of the federal government;

(5) "Public health officer" means the director of a city, county, or district health department having jurisdiction over the community health in a specific area, or the officer's authorized representative; and

(6) "Travel camp" means any organized camp in which provisions are made for the accommodation of travel trailers, truck coaches or campers, tent campers, tents, and other camping vehicles.

68-110-102. Rules and regulations governing camps.

It is the duty of the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations deemed necessary for the protection of the health and safety of persons using camps or living adjacent to camps.

68-110-103. Permits.

(a) No place or site within any political subdivision of the state of Tennessee shall be established or maintained by any person as an organized camp, unless the person holds a valid permit issued by the commissioner or public health officer in the name of the person for the specific organized camp.

(b) The commissioner or public health officer is authorized to issue, suspend, or revoke permits in accordance with this chapter and any rules and regulations that may be adopted by the department under the authority of this or other applicable laws.

(c) The annual permit fee to operate an organized camp shall be in accordance with the following schedule. As used in this subsection (c), a "travel campsite" is a designated

camping space that is equipped with utility connections. [Click here to view image.](#)

(d) If the permit fee is delinquent for more than thirty (30) calendar days, a penalty of one half (1/2) the permit fee shall be added to the permit fee. If a check is returned for any reason, a penalty of one half (1/2) the permit fee shall be added to the permit fee. The permit fee, plus any penalty, shall be paid to the commissioner before the permit is issued.

(e) The permit shall be kept and displayed in a conspicuous manner, properly framed, at the organized camp for which it was issued.

(f) Ninety-five percent (95%) of permit fees, fines, and penalties collected within a contract county pursuant to this chapter shall be conveyed by contract to the respective county health department to assist such county health department in implementing the program in the local jurisdiction. This amount shall be calculated based upon fees collected in the contract county during the state's fiscal year multiplied by ninety-five percent (95%).

(g) No contract county currently charging a local permit fee shall charge a local permit fee. By July 30 of each year, each contract county shall provide a report to the commissioner for the preceding fiscal year documenting the total cost relative to carrying out the provisions of the contract and the amount of permit fees collected. The report shall be on a form provided by the commissioner.

68-110-104. Inspections -- Right-of-entry.

(a) The commissioner or public health officer is authorized and directed to make inspections to determine the conditions of organized camps, in order that the commissioner or officer may perform such person's duty of safeguarding the health and safety of occupants of organized camps and of the general public.

(b) The commissioner and public health officer have the power to enter at reasonable times upon any private or public property, for the purpose of inspecting and investigating conditions relating to the enforcement of this chapter or of regulations promulgated under this chapter.

68-110-105. Enforcement of chapter -- Local requirements to conform with departmental requirements.

(a) It is the duty of the local public health officers or the commissioner, when the commissioner determines that this chapter is not being adequately enforced, to enforce this chapter.

(b) All ordinances, rules, regulations, and other requirements adopted by the boards of health or local governing bodies shall at least conform to the reasonable requirements that may have been established by the department and shall not be inconsistent with such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the department.

68-110-106. Penalties.

Any person who violates this chapter or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, or fails to perform the reasonable requirements of the department or public health officer after receipt of ten (10) days' written notice of such requirements, shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. Each day of continued violation after conviction constitutes a separate offense.

HISTORY: Acts 1965, ch. 65, § 6; T.C.A., §§ 53-3806, 68-28-106.