

What is the City of Appleton noise ordinance?

Noise is regulated under Chapter 12, Article IV, of the Appleton Municipal code. This article applies to the control of noise originating within the corporate limits of the City. In general, no person shall make or cause to be made any loud, disturbing or unnecessary sounds or noises such as may tend to annoy or disturb a reasonable person in or about any public street, alley or park or any private residence.

When do I need a variance from the noise ordinance?

There may be times or events planned where strict adherence to the noise ordinance may be difficult or unreasonable due to special circumstances. When it is anticipated that this will occur, the appropriate course of action is to apply to the Health Officer for the granting of a variance from the particular requirements of the noise ordinance. Keep in mind this is a process that may take some time to complete! There is no fee required.

What must I do to obtain a noise variance?

A letter requesting a variance from the noise ordinance must be sent to the Appleton Health Department, Attn: Health Officer at the Appleton Health Department, 100 North Appleton Street, Appleton, WI, 54911. The letter should include the location, date and times requested, source of noise involved and the name of the person in charge who will be present while the noise is produced. The Health Officer will either approve or deny the request and notify you of the decision in writing. If it is denied, you may appeal this decision to the Board of Health. The Board meets at 7:00 AM on the first Wednesday of each month in room 6-A at City Hall. The Health Department must receive your written request for an appeal no later than the Thursday before the next scheduled Board of Health meeting to get your appeal on the next Board agenda.

If your request was denied and you submitted a written request for an appeal, you will need to appear at the Board of Health meeting where you will be given an opportunity to be heard. You may be asked to provide evidence on how you plan to ensure noise will be controlled at your event. The Board recommendation will then be presented at the next Common Council meeting for their approval. Although you are not required to be present at the Council meeting, you may attend. After the City Council meeting you will be notified, in writing, of the decision.

If my variance is approved by the Health Officer or Common Council, is there anything else I need to do?

Keep your approval letter handy so that you may show it to City Officials in case they are called to investigate the noise.