

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 disconnect.
2. When the structure is deemed unoccupied, the water service will be disconnected by the Utilities Division by removing the water meter.
3. For sewer service, the homeowner must excavate the tap as close as possible to the sewer main, disconnect and cap the service lateral, and secure the cap with concrete. The homeowner must leave the cap uncovered for inspection by the Utilities Division. After inspection and approval by the Utilities Division, the homeowner may backfill the connection and sewage billing will be discontinued. If the disconnected lateral is backfilled prior to inspection, the sewage billing will continue.
4. 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. In FY 18, 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.
5. 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. In these districts, a minimum quarterly payment will be due, regardless of whether a customer is connected or not.

6. A newly acquired property, provided that all past due utility bills are paid, will be required to pay 50% of the minimum charges, provided the home is not fit to be occupied and a major renovation is underway up to a maximum of one year. The water meter will be removed by the county and the sewer uncovered, disconnected, and capped by the homeowner for County inspection. All fixtures do not need removed. The Utilities Division will confirm the renovation is underway. After one year, the property must begin paying full charges or permanently remove fixtures.
7. A major disaster, such as a fire that renders the home unfit to be occupied, would be treated the same as previously stated for up to one year.
8. Estate related vacancies would be handled the same as unconnected water customers; a \$5 reduction in both the water and sewer minimum. The water meter will be removed. If public water is not provided, the homeowner must disconnect sewer, as previously stated.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.

1-12-18

Date

1/12/18

Date

Warren Foote

Warren Foote – Chairman

J. Bennett

Jason M. Bennett, Secretary-Treasurer