



Town of Kingston

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The Kingston Police Department is currently enforcing the false alarm policy outlined in Chapter 9, Article 2 of the Town of Kingston General By-Laws (Revised thru April 1, 2006), which includes the following two sections:

9-2-1. Definitions

B. The term “false alarm” means (a) the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or negligence of the user of an alarm system or his employees or agents: (b) any signal or automatic dialing service transmitted to the Fire or Police Department requesting or resulting in a response on the part of the Fire or Police Department when in fact there has been no unauthorized intrusion, robbery or burglary, attempted threat, or fire, smoke, heat, or health emergency. For the purposes of this definition activation of alarm systems for the purposes of testing with prior approval by the Fire or Police Department, or by an act of God, including but not limited to power outages, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and similar weather or atmospheric disturbances shall not be deemed to be a false alarm.

*9-2-3. Penalties. The user shall be assessed fifty (\$50) dollars as a false alarm service fee for **each false alarm in excess of three (3) within a calendar year**. The Police Chief or Fire Chief shall notify the alarm user pursuant to the provisions contained in MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D, as amended. Said user shall submit payment within twenty-one (21) days of the date of said notice to the Town Clerk for deposit to the General Fund.*

It is important to note that this applies to both business and residential alarms. This enforcement is not meant to punish those who call for service, but to ensure that alarms are in proper working order and to prevent the unwarranted use of valuable resources. In the last 8 months, the Kingston Police responded to 612 alarm calls. All but 4 were false alarms.