

Chapter 57

Curfew for Minors

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**Article I
Definitions**

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated.

1. **CURFEW HOURS** – Refers to the hours of 12:01 A.M. through 5:00 A.M. on Monday through Friday, and 1:01 A.M. through 5:00 A.M. on Saturday and Sunday.
2. **EMERGENCY** – Refers to unforeseen circumstances, or the status or condition resulting from, requiring immediate action to safeguard life, limb or property. The term includes, but is not limited to, fires, natural disasters, automobile accidents, or other similar circumstances.
3. **ESTABLISHMENT** - Refers to any privately-owned place of business within the Town operated for a profit to which the public is invited, including, but not limited to, any place of amusement or entertainment. With respect to such establishment, the term "operator" shall mean any person, and any firm, association, partnership (and the members or partners thereof) and/or any corporation (and the officers thereof) conducting or managing that establishment.
4. **MINOR** - Refers to any person less than eighteen (18) years of age who has not been emancipated by Court order.
5. **OFFICER** - Refers to a police or other law enforcement officer charged with the duty of enforcing the laws of the State of Maryland and/or the codes and ordinances of the Town of Thurmont.
6. **PARENT** - Refers to:
 - a. A person who is a minor's biological or adoptive parent and who has legal custody of a minor (including either parent, if custody is shared under a court order or agreement);
 - b. A person who is the biological or adoptive parent with whom a minor regularly resides;
 - c. A person judicially appointed as a legal guardian of the minor; and/or
 - d. A person eighteen (18) years of age or older standing in loco parentis (as indicated by the authorization of an individual listed in part(s) (a), (b) or (c) of this definition, above, for the person to assume the care or physical custody of the child, or as indicated by any other circumstances).
7. **PERSON** - Refers to an individual, not to any association, corporation, or any other legal entity.

8. **PUBLIC PLACE** - Refers to any place to which the public or a substantial group of the public has access, including, but not limited to: streets, highways, roads, sidewalks, alleys, avenues, parks, and/or the common areas of schools, hospitals, apartment houses, office buildings, transportation facilities and shops.
9. **REMAIN** - Refers to the following actions:
 - a. To linger or stay at or upon a place; and/or
 - b. To fail to leave a place when requested to do so by an officer or by the owner, operator or other person in control of that place.
10. **TEMPORARY CARE FACILITY** - Refers to a non-locked, non-restrictive shelter at which minors may wait, under visual supervision, to be retrieved by a parent. No minors waiting in such facility shall be handcuffed and/or secured (by handcuffs or otherwise) to any stationary object.
11. **TOWN** – Refers to the Town of Thurmont.

**Article II
Curfew for Minors**

§ 57-20. Purpose.

The purpose of this section is to:

- a. Promote the general welfare and protect the general public through the reduction of juvenile violence and crime within the Town;
- b. Promote the safety and well-being of the Town's youngest citizens, persons under the age of eighteen (18), whose inexperience renders them particularly vulnerable to becoming participants in unlawful activities, particularly unlawful drug activities, and to being victimized by older perpetrators of crime; and
- c. Foster and strengthen parental responsibility for children.

§ 57-21. Curfew for Minors.

1. It shall be unlawful for a minor, during curfew hours, to remain in or upon any Public Place within the Town, to remain in any motor vehicle operating or parked therein or thereon, or to remain in or upon the premises of any Establishment within the Town, unless:
 - a. The minor is accompanied by a parent; or
 - b. The minor is involved in an emergency; or
 - c. The minor is engaged in an employment activity, or is going to or returning home from such activity, without detour or stop; or
 - d. The minor is on the sidewalk directly abutting a place where he or she resides with a parent; or
 - e. The minor is attending an activity sponsored by a school, religious, or civic organization, by a public organization or agency, or by another similar organization or entity, which activity is supervised by adults, and/or the minor is going to or returning from such an activity without detour or stop; or
 - f. The minor is on an errand at the direction of a parent, and the minor has in his or her possession a writing signed by the parent containing the following information: the name, signature, address and telephone number of the parent authorizing the errand, the telephone number where the parent may be reached during the errand, the name of the minor, and a brief description of the errand, the minor's destination(s) and the hours the minor is authorized to be engaged in the errand; or
 - g. The minor is involved in interstate travel through, or beginning or terminating in, the Town of Thurmont; or
 - h. The minor is exercising First Amendment rights protected by the United States Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech and the right of assembly.

2. It shall be unlawful for a person who is the owner or operator of any motor vehicle to knowingly permit, allow or encourage a violation of this chapter.
3. It shall be unlawful for the operator of any Establishment, or for any person who is an employee thereof, to knowingly permit, allow or encourage a minor to remain upon the premises of the establishment during curfew hours. It shall be a defense to prosecution under this subsection that the operator or employee of an establishment promptly notified the police department that a minor was present at the establishment after curfew hours and refused to leave.
4. It shall be unlawful for any person (including any minor) to give a false name, address, or telephone number to any officer investigating a possible violation of this Chapter.

§ 57-22. Unlawful conduct of parents.

1. It shall be unlawful for a parent having legal custody of a juvenile knowingly to permit or by inefficient control to allow the juvenile to remain in any Town public place under circumstances not constituting an exception to, or otherwise beyond the scope of, section 57-21.
2. The term "knowingly" includes knowledge that a parent should reasonably be expected to have concerning the whereabouts of a juvenile in that parent's legal custody. This requirement is intended to hold a neglectful or careless parent up to a reasonable community standard of parental responsibility through an objective test. It shall, therefore, be no defense that a parent was completely indifferent to the activities or conduct or whereabouts of such juvenile.

§ 57-23. Enforcement.

1. **Minors.** Before taking any enforcement action hereunder, an officer shall make an immediate investigation for the purpose to ascertaining whether or not the presence of a minor in a public place, motor vehicle and/or establishment within the Town during curfew hours is in violation this Chapter.
2. If such investigation reveals that the presence of such minor is in violation of this Chapter then:
 - a. If the minor has not previously been issued a warning for any such violation, the officer shall issue a verbal warning to the minor, which shall be followed by a written warning mailed by the police department to the minor and his or her parent(s), or

- b. If the minor has previously been issued a warning for any such violation, then the officer shall charge the minor with a violation of this ordinance and shall issue a summons requiring the minor to appear in court, and
 - c. As soon as practicable, the officer shall:
 - i. Release the minor to his or her parent(s); or
 - ii. Place the minor in a temporary care facility for a period not to exceed the remainder of the curfew hours, so that his or her parent(s) may retrieve the minor; or
 - iii. If a minor refuses to give an officer his or her name and address, refuses to give the name and address of his or her parent(s), or if no parent can be located prior to the end of the applicable curfew hours, or if located, no parent appears to accept custody of the minor, the minor may be taken to a nonsecure crisis center or juvenile shelter and/or may be taken to a judge or intake officer of the juvenile court to be dealt with in the manner and pursuant to such procedures as required by law.
3. **Others.** If an investigation by an officer reveals that a person has violated this chapter, and if the person has not previously been issued a warning with respect to any such violation, an officer shall issue a verbal warning to the person, which shall be followed by a written warning mailed by the police department to the person; however, if any such warning has previously been issued to that person then the officer shall charge the person with a violation and shall issue a summons directing the person to appear in court.

§ 57-24. Penalties.

1. A law enforcement officer may issue a civil citation for a violation of a juvenile curfew ordinance to:
 - a. A minor;
 - b. A parent or guardian of a minor; or
 - c. An owner, operator, or employee of an establishment.
2. If, after the warning notice pursuant to section 57-21 of a first violation by a juvenile, a parent violates section 57-21 (in connection with a second violation by the juvenile), this shall be treated as a first offense by the parent.
 - a. For the first offense by a parent, the fine shall be in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and for each subsequent offense by a parent the fine shall be increased by an additional one hundred dollars (\$100.00), (e.g., two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the second offense, three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the third offense) up to a maximum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

3. Any juvenile who shall violate any of the provisions section 57-21 more than three (3) times shall be reported by the chief of police to the Department of Juvenile Services as a child in need of supervision.
4. If, after the warning notice pursuant to section 57-23 of a violation of section 57-21, an operator of an establishment violates section 57-21 a second time, this shall be treated as a first offense by the operator. For the first offense by an operator, the fine shall be in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and for each subsequent offense by an operator the fine shall be increased by an additional one hundred dollars (\$100.00), (e.g., two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the second offense, three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the third offense) up to a maximum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

Article III Severability

§ 57-30. Severability.

Severability is intended throughout and within the provisions of this chapter. If any provision, including any exception, part, phrase, or term, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby and the validity of the remaining articles or sections in any and all other respects shall not be affected thereby.