

**HAUNTED HOUSES, HALLOWEEN HOUSES, MYSTERY MANSIONS AND GHOST WALKS**

**BASIS**

**Haunted House, Indoor:** Any indoor permanent or temporary building, structure or facility, or portion thereof, which provides walkways or any other system that transports passengers through a facility or course so arranged that the means of egress are not readily apparent due to theatrical distractions or displays, are not plainly visible due to low illumination, or are not readily accessible or available due to the type of course, pathways or method of transportation through the building or structure, and where the public is invited to view, be entertained, scared or amused by simulated creations of sound, theatrical displays or distractions, or sight and feeling of a ghoulish, ghostly, spectral, imaginary and haunting nature in the spirit of and celebration of the holiday known as Halloween. Unless otherwise specified, such term shall include temporary and permanent haunted houses, indoor.

**Haunted Walk/Field, Outdoor:** An attraction similar to haunted houses, indoor, which occurs primarily outdoors but may include both outdoor or indoor areas where egress to a public way is not readily identifiable, where the public is invited to view, be entertained, scared or amused by simulated creations of sound, theatrical distractions, sight and feeling of a ghoulish, ghostly, spectral, imaginary and haunting nature in the spirit of and celebration of the holiday known as Halloween.

**Permanent Haunted House means a Haunted House, Indoor:** Meets the requirements of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Unified Zoning Code as related to “Recreation and Entertainment, Indoor” uses, as well as all City of Wichita building, fire, electrical, elevator, mechanical, plumbing and sewer codes, which may operate year round.

**LEGAL**

**REFERENCE**

Chapter 3.22 Code of the City of Wichita, Kansas.

**REGULATIONS**

Halloween Season is the period of time from September 1<sup>st</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup> of any calendar year. Temporary haunted houses, indoor or temporary haunted walks/fields, outdoor shall be effective for one annual Halloween Season. Permanent haunted houses, indoor are effective for 12 months.

No license shall be issued for the operation of a temporary haunted house, indoor or temporary haunted walk/field, outdoor, in any residential zoning district except those located in buildings of churches, schools or upon public property with the written approval of the municipality, department or agency authorized to issue such approval for use of the property.

Applications for a license or renewal will not be accepted by the City Treasurer less than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the temporary haunted house, indoor or temporary haunted walk/field, outdoor, or expiration of a current license. With the application and fee, the applicant shall submit the following:

- Written consent of the property owner;
- Site and/or floor plan of all proposed indoor or outdoor permanent or temporary buildings, structures, facilities or property;
- Plan for parking and restroom facilities;
- Maximum occupant load of the buildings, facilities or areas;
- Emergency management plan, consisting of, but not limited to fire and storm evacuation, patron crowd control and emergency access for police, fire and ambulance;
- Detailed plans and drawings of the temporary haunted house, indoor or temporary haunted walk/field, outdoor shall be submitted to the Office of Central Inspection and the Wichita Fire Department, indicating the waiting area for persons seeking admission, the parking areas, all restrooms, emergency exits and all other areas accessible by patrons; and
- Certificate of Liability Insurance with coverage of not less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for injury or death to any one person and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for injury or death to any number of persons in any one accident.

Every person engaging in, conducting, pursuing or operating a temporary haunted house, indoor or temporary haunted walk/field, outdoor, within the corporate limits of the city, shall comply with the standards, rules and regulations as defined by Chapter 3.22.

**ENFORCING AUTHORITY**

Office of Central Inspection, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works & Utilities Department of the City of Wichita

**FEES**

Temporary Haunted House, Indoor or Temporary Haunted Walk/Field, Outdoor  
 Fee Including initial inspection and re-inspection for corrections..... \$100.00  
 Permanent Haunted House, Indoor Fee including initial inspection.....\$250.00  
 Subsequent Inspection Fee after the initial inspection.....\$ 50.00  
 The processing fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable.