

Chapter 10 – Businesses and Business Regulations

ARTICLE III. - RECOVERY RESIDENCES

Sec. 10-26. - Title.

This article shall be known as the "Dodge County Recovery Residence Ordinance."

Sec. 10-27. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Person means any individual, corporation, company, partnership, trust or other entity.

Recovery residence means any facility located in, on or at any land within the unincorporated area of Dodge County, which houses, shelters or supervises any individual for the purpose of assisting him or her in rehabilitating from and overcoming substance abuse and addiction; provided that, recovery residence also means safe and healthy residential environments in which skills vital for sustaining recovery are learned and practiced in a home-like setting, based on certain principles and standards recognized by the National Alliance of Recovery Residences ("NARR") and the Georgia Association of Recovery Residences ("GARR").

Sec. 10-28. – License(s).

(a) Effective January 1, 2024, a license must be obtained from the governing authority before a person may operate any recovery residence in the unincorporated area of Dodge County, Georgia.

(b) No license to operate a recovery residence shall be issued to any person who is not 21 years of age and a citizen of the United States or who has been convicted of a felony. Application for a license to operate a recovery residence shall be made upon such forms as provided by the county manager and shall be filed and maintained in the office of the county manager.

(c) Every application for a license shall be accompanied by the affidavit of the applicant, sworn to before an officer authorized by law to administer oaths, stating the applicant is a citizen of the United States; that they have not been convicted of a felony; that they will comply with the standards promulgated by GARR as set forth in Sec. 10-29 and the laws, rules, and regulations as promulgated by any local, state, or federal governing authority having jurisdiction over the facility; that a suitable policy of insurance has been procured with a copy of an insurance binder in no less amount than \$1,000,000.00 for general liability purposes; that the premises of the recovery residence is sufficiently secure as to not create a public nuisance; and that no person at said

recovery residence shall be permitted to use alcohol or illegal substances as defined by OCGA 16-13-1 et seq.

(d) The county manager or their designee shall issue a license for a recovery residence which meets the criteria set forth in Sec. 10-28(c) and Sec. 10-29. In the event an application for a license for a recovery residence is rejected, the applicant shall be provided a written statement setting forth the basis of the denial and the applicant shall not be prohibited from submitting further applications after remediating any issues identified in writing by the county manager or their designee.

Sec. 10-29. – Minimum Standards

Each and every recovery residence shall comply with the principles and standards established by the GARR, as set forth in the most current edition of the NARR standards, 3.0, as amended, including but not limited to insuring that:

- (1)The recovery residence is in good repair, clean and well maintained;
- (2)There is 50 plus square feet per bed per sleeping room;
- (3)There is a minimum of one sink, toilet and shower per six residents;
- (4)Each resident has personal item storage;
- (5)Each resident has food storage space;
- (6)There are laundry services accessible to all residents;
- (7)All appliances are in safe, working, condition;
- (8)There is a meeting space large enough to accommodate all residents;
- (9)A comfortable group area providing space for small groups and socializing;
- (10)There are kitchen and dining areas large enough to accommodate all residents;
- (11)The recovery residence has a safety-inspection;
- (12)There is a policy regarding a smoke-free living environment and/or designated smoking area outside the recovery residence;
- (13)There are emergency numbers, procedures (including overdose and other emergency responses) and evacuation maps posted in a conspicuous location;
- (14)There are resident rights, rules, responsibilities, schedules, emergency procedures, emergency numbers, staff contact numbers, and grievance process posted in all recovery residences; and
- (15)There are resource directories, written or electronic, made available to all residents.

Sec. 10-30. – Issuance of License.

Upon the application being filed and approved, the county manager shall issue a license for the current year or unexpired portion thereof upon the payment of \$150.00 as a license fee.

Sec. 10-31. - Surrender, transfer and forfeiture of license.

If any licensee shall voluntarily relinquish personal supervision, management, and control of such recovery residence, they shall surrender their license to the county

manager, who may issue a new license to some other person to continue the business under this article, in which event credit shall be given for the unused portion of the surrendered license; but, if any licensee transfers or subleases the place of business to anyone or relinquishes management and control of the business without surrendering their license to the county manager for reissuance, the license shall be deemed to be forfeited, and the county manager will notify the sheriff of the county, who shall close the place of business.

Sec. 10-32. Revocation.

The failure of the licensee to comply with the terms of this article or the provisions of state law governing the operation of a recovery residence shall authorize the county manager to immediately revoke any license issued permitting the operation of a recovery residence.

Sec. 10-33. - Punishment for violation(s).

Any person or individual who violates any part or provision of this article shall be punishable by the means and manners set forth in Chapter 1, Sec. 1-4.