

## Chapter 18

### SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of German as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

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#### ARTICLE I Public Sewer Enforcement [Adopted 2-12-2003 by Ord. No. 02/203]

##### § 18-1. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

**AUTHORITY** — A Sanitary Sewage Authority established by the German Township Supervisors in accordance with the Municipal Authorities Act or any Sanitary Sewage Authority with which German Township has entered-into an inter-municipal agreement for services, either prior to or following the effective date of this article.

**CONNECTION; SEWER CONNECTION; TO CONNECT; TAP-IN** — An extension from the public sewer system which connects to a residence, building or unit by means of a pipe or pipeline allowing sewage waste to flow from the residence, building or unit into the public sewer system.

**PROPERTY OWNER** — The person or persons to whom land or real property is titled.

**§ 18-4. Access to property.**

For the purpose of making any inspection to ensure compliance with this article or the rules, regulations and resolutions of the Authority, an officer, agent, representative or employee of the Township of German and/or the Authority shall have access at all reasonable hours of the day to all parts of the property to which sewage service is supplied or intended to be supplied, and to any connections or taps, and excavations relating thereto.

**§ 18-5. Failure, refusal or neglect to connect/tap-in.**

- A. In the event any property owner to which § 18-2, herein, applies fails, refuses or neglects to tap-in/connect to the public sewer system in accordance with the provisions herein, an officer, agent, representative or employee of the Township of German and/or the Authority may enter upon such property and construct such sewer tap-in/connection. Upon construction of such sewer connection, the property owner shall be:
- (1) Provided with an itemized bill of costs for construction of the said sewer tap-in/connection; and
  - (2) Assessed any additional sums which may be payable pursuant to § 18-3, herein.
- B. The costs set forth in Subsection A(1) shall be collectable in any manner provided by law or equity.
- C. The sums set forth in Subsection A(2) shall be collectable in any manner provided by law or equity, and/or payment of the same may be enforced pursuant to the provisions of this article.

**§ 18-6. Nonpublic sewer system facilities.**

After a period of 60 days has lapsed from the date of notice given to a property owner to connect to the public sewer system, as provided above, the property owner:

- A. Shall forthwith abandon all privies, cesspools, sinkholes, septic tanks and other receptacles on the premises for receiving sewage and/or industrial waste; and
- B. Shall not at any time thereafter erect, construct, use or maintain any pipe, conduit, drain or other facility for the discharge of sewage and/or industrial waste except for the purpose of discharge into the public sewer system; and
- C. Shall forthwith clean and fill, under the direction of an officer, agent, representative or employee of the Township of German and/or the Authority, all privy vaults, cesspools or similar receptacles for human excrement on the premises.

**§ 18-7. Special agreements or arrangements.**

- A. Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the Authority, in its sole and absolute discretion, from making a special agreement or arrangement with a property owner, upon the showing of good cause, such that the property owner is granted a reasonable

**ARTICLE II**  
**Holding Tanks**  
**[Adopted 4-16-1985 by Ord. No. 125]**

**§ 18-10. Purposes.**

The purpose of this article is to establish procedures for the use and maintenance of holding tanks designed to receive and retain sewage whether from residential or commercial uses and it is hereby declared the enactment of this article is necessary for the protection, benefit and preservation of the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of this Township.

**§ 18-11. Definitions.**

Unless the context specifically and clearly indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this article shall be as follows:

**AUTHORITY** — The Supervisors of German Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

**HOLDING TANK** — A watertight receptacle which receives and retains sewage and is designed and constructed to facilitate ultimate disposal of the sewage at another site. Holding tanks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Chemical toilet which is a toilet using chemicals that discharge to a holding tank.
- B. Retention tank which is a holding tank where sewage is conveyed to it by a water carrying system.
- C. Vault pit privy which is a holding tank designed to receive sewage where water under pressure is not available.

**IMPROVED PROPERTY** — Any property within the Township upon which there is erected a structure intended for continuous or periodic habitation, occupancy or use by human beings or animals and from which structure sewage shall or may be discharged.

**MUNICIPALITY** — The Township of German, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

**OWNER** — Any person vested with ownership, legal or equitable, sole or partial, of any property located in the Township.

**PERSON** — Any individual, partnership company, association, corporation or other group or entity.

**SEWAGE** — Any substance that contains any of the waste products or excrement or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals and any noxious or deleterious substance being harmful or inimical to the public health, or to animal or aquatic life or to the use of water for domestic water supply or for recreation.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this article, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a Magisterial District Judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this article continues or each section of this article which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

**§ 18-19. Abatement of nuisances.**

In addition to any other remedies provided in this article, any violation of § 18-17 above shall constitute a nuisance and shall be abated by the Township or the Authority by either seeking appropriate equitable or legal relief from a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Chapter 19**  
**(RESERVED)**