

Hartford Township, Van Buren County, Michigan  
Ordinance Number 25  
Regulation of Garage, Yard and Rummage Sales

An ordinance to regulate and permit garage, yard and rummage sales in accordance with the township's authority to regulate the public health, safety and general welfare of persons and property in the Township of Hartford.

**No person, association, partnership or corporation shall conduct what is commonly known as a garage, yard or rummage sale within Hartford Township without having first procured from the Zoning Administrator a permit for which a fee in the sum of \$3.00 shall be paid.**

**Section 1. Definition.** Rummage sales shall include all garages, lawn, porch, attic, yard, barn or other similar casual sale of tangible personal property by a person which is advertised in any manner to the general public.

**Section 2. Permits.** Any person, association, partnership or corporation who shall conduct garage, yard, or rummage sale without having procured a permit from the Township shall be guilty of violating this Ordinance.

**Section 3. Regulations.** Any person, association, partnership or corporation conducting such sale may not conduct such sale for a period of more than four days, and under the following conditions.

- A. Garage, yard and rummage sales can be held in the Township of Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only;
- B. Persons desiring to hold a garage, yard, or rummage sale must apply for a permit by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the sale.
- C. Garage, yard or rummage sale permits must be displaying in a conspicuous place.
- D. Any attempt to commercialize or to bring rummage/merchandise in from outside source and offer it for sale shall be cause for immediate revocation of the permit.

**Section 4. Number Allowed Per Year.** No person, association, partnership or corporation shall be allowed more than three such permits within any twelve (12) month period. No more than three such permits shall be issued to any combination of persons for the same location in any twelve (12) month period. No more than three such permits shall be permitted to the persons residing in the same household in any twelve (12) month period whether for a single location or at multiple locations. No person, association, partnership or corporation shall participate in the sale of goods nor offer their goods for sale at any such sale unless the permit was granted to them or a member of their immediate household.

**Section 5. Location Specification/Advertising Sign Restrictions.** All such garage, yard or rummage sales shall be held in a manner that does not endanger life or property and shall be located at least thirty-five (35) feet from the travel portion of any roadway. All merchandise and signs intended to advertise such sales shall be no larger than 4'x4' and shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours from the close of the sale.

**Section 6. ~~Violations and Penalties.~~** ~~Any person or persons found guilty of having violated this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than Fifty (\$50.00) dollars, plus costs and in the event such a fine and costs are not paid, may be subjected to imprisonment in the County Jail for a period not to exceed five (5) days at the discretion of the judge. \*Amended June 17, 2013 by Ordinance No 38a~~

**Penalties and Enforcement**

- A. Any person or entity responsible for a violation of this Ordinance, whether as an occupant, owner (by deed or land contract), lessee, licensee, agent, contractor, servant, employee, or otherwise, shall be liable as a principal. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.
- B. Any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation or governmental entity who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan Statute which shall be punishable by a civil fine determined in accordance with the following schedule:

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	Minimum Fine	Maximum Fine
1 <sup>st</sup> Offense within 3-year period*	\$ 75.00	\$500.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense within 3-year period*	\$150.00	\$500.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense within 3-year period*	\$300.00	\$500.00
4 <sup>th</sup> or More offense within 3-year period*	\$500.00	\$500.00

\*Determined on the basis of the date of commission of the offense(s).

- C. Additionally, the violator shall pay costs which may include all expenses, direct and indirect, to which Hartford Township has been put in connection with the municipal civil infraction. In no case, however, shall costs of less than \$9.00 or more than \$500.00 be ordered. In addition, the Township shall have the right to proceed in any court of competent Jurisdiction for the purpose of obtaining an injunction, restraining order, or other appropriate remedy to compel compliance with this Ordinance. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

**Section 7. Unconstitutional Severance.** Any section of this Ordinance determined unconstitutional shall be severed from the Ordinance and not invalidate other provisions.

**Section 8. Effective Date.** This Ordinance, replacing Ordinance No. 21 in its entirety, shall be effective August 11, 1996.

*Adopted by the Township Board of Hartford Township, Van Buren County, Michigan on July 11, 1996.  
Effective August 11, 1996.*