

**ROAD NAMING ORDINANCE
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAMPSON, NORTH CAROLINA**

ARTICLE I. TITLE, AUTHORITY PURPOSE AND JURISDICTION

Section 101 Title

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Road Naming Ordinance for the County of Sampson, North Carolina.

Section 102 Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide a uniform system of road naming along both public and private streets and roadways in order to facilitate the provision of adequate public safety and emergency response services. This Ordinance is further designed to eliminate duplicate or phonetically similar street names, and to provide for the uniform marking of streets and roadways. It is further designed to establish an official map and listing of all streets and roadways in Sampson County, and to establish the procedures by which a street or roadway may be named or by which an existing name may be changed.

Section 103 Authority

This Ordinance is adopted under the authority and provisions of the General Statutes of North Carolina, Chapter 153A-121, 239.1, and local modifications thereto.

Section 104 Jurisdiction

This Ordinance, the regulations, and the procedures contained herein shall apply to and govern each and every public or private roadway within the County of Sampson outside the jurisdiction of any incorporated municipality.

ARTICLE II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this Ordinance, certain terms or words used herein shall be defined as follows:

Board of Commissioners - Sampson County Board of Commissioners.

Building - Any structure having a roof supported by columns or by walls, and intended for shelter, housing or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels or equipment. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the term building may also include other man-made structures.

Business Address - A house number.

Developer - A person, firm or corporation submitting an application for development for a subdivision, planned unit development, industrial park or mobile home park and upon whom final responsibility for ensuring compliance with the terms and conditions of this Ordinance rests.

Driveway - A private way, beginning at the property line of a lot abutting a public road, private road, easement or private right-of-way giving access from that public road, recorded easement, recorded private road or private right-of-way, and leading to a building, or use of structure on that lot. A driveway may not serve more than a single lot unless it runs along a lot line shared by two (2) lots and serves not more than two (2) residences, businesses, or industries.

Dwelling, Single-Family - A building, or any portion thereof, arranged or designed to be occupied by one (1) family.

Enhanced 911 (E911) Committee - The name of the Sampson County committee designated by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners and assigned the authority to compile and coordinate the county road naming process for the purposes of providing a comprehensive countywide road name system.

House Number - Number assigned to any house, residence, dwelling, business, warehouse, or other structure or property in a sequential manner.

Mailing Address - Assigned or used by the U. S. Postal Service for the purpose of delivery of the U.S. Mail. Mailing addresses may or may not be identical to property addresses.

Mobile Home - A portable manufactured housing unit designed for transportation on its own chassis and placement on a temporary or semi-permanent foundation having a measurement of thirty-two (32) feet or more in length and eight (8) feet or more in width. As used in this Ordinance, mobile home also means double-wide mobile home which is two or more portable manufactured housing units designed for transportation on their own chassis, which connect on site for placement on a temporary or semi-permanent foundation having a measurement of thirty-two (32) feet or more in length and eight (8) feet or more in width.

Mobile Home Park - Shall be the land leased or rented, being used or proposed to be used, for the exclusive use of mobile homes.

Mobile Home Space - Any parcel of ground within a mobile home park designed for the exclusive use of one mobile home.

Official Name - The name of an roadway in the unincorporated area of Sampson County as approved by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners.

Private Mobile Home Park Road - Any street, roadway or driveway which serves two or more mobile homes for residential purposes, and which has not been dedicated to the public use.

Public Road - A street located on public right-of-way and which meets the total improvement requirements for a public street as set forth by the North Carolina Department of Transportation in its publication "Subdivision Roads - Minimum Construction Standards."

Private Road - A street not maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation which is not intended to become a public street but which shall be used for access to a particular site, group development or business. A road which provides access to three (3) or more residences, businesses, industries, or combination thereof, regardless of the length of the road.

Property Address - The house number, as assigned by the County or its agent(s), and the roadway name as approved by the County as prescribed herein, shall serve as the property address.

Roadway - Any road, street, drive, lane, cartway, tramway, easement, right-of-way, access area, thoroughfare, highway, boulevard, or any other corridor used for or having the potential use as a means of conveyance by a motor vehicle.

State Road Number - A number assigned by the North Carolina Department of Transportation; also known as the SR number for secondary state maintained roads.

Street Name - The official name of any roadway, designated by the Board of Commissioners, or, in the case of public roads, by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Suffix The following all-inclusive list shall be used after a roadway name: avenue, boulevard, circle, court, crossing, drive, estate, extension, gardens, heights, highway, landing, lane, park, place, plaza, point, ridge, road, roadway, square, street, terrace, trace, trail, village, or way.

Travel Trailer - A vehicular portable structure less than thirty-two (32) feet in length primarily designed as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreation, or vacation uses.

Travel Trailer Park - A parcel of land designed and equipped to accommodate travel trailers.

ARTICLE III. STREET NAMES

A. The Sampson County Emergency Management Office shall maintain a listing of all official street names in Sampson County as well as maintain an official County map exhibiting the approved names and location of all roads in Sampson County,

and shall serve as a clearinghouse for all information regarding the names and location of roadways in Sampson County.

B. Any amendments to such list shall be made only by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners unless additions to such lists are made through the procedure for approval of new subdivisions, planned unit developments, mobile home parks or through other land development regulations.

C. All public roadways in the unincorporated areas of Sampson County shall be identified by a sign showing the official name and state road number. These road signs shall be placed at all intersections. The County shall be responsible for the provision and installation of said signs.

D. All private roadways in the unincorporated areas of Sampson County as defined in Section 302, paragraph C, shall be identified by a sign showing the official name. These road signs shall be placed at all intersections. The County shall be responsible for the provision and installation of said signs, except in the case of subdivisions with proposed new streets, wherein the developer in that case shall be responsible for the provision and installation of said signs.

Section 302 Street Naming Procedures

A. Under the authority and provision of the General Statutes of North Carolina, Chapter 153A-239.1 and local modifications thereto, a county may by ordinance, name or rename any public or private road within the county and not within a city, and may assign or reassign street numbers for use of such a road. In naming or renaming a public road, a county may not:

1. Change the name, if any, given to the road by the North Carolina Board of Transportation without their concurrence.
2. Change the identification number assigned to the road by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.
3. Give the road a name that is deceptively similar to the name of any other public road in the vicinity.

A county shall not name or rename a road or assign or reassign street numbers on a road until it has held a public hearing on the matter except as provided in Section 306. At least ten days before the day of the hearing, the Board of Commissioners shall cause notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the hearing to be prominently posted at the county courthouse, in at two public places in the township or townships where the road is located, and shall publish a notice of such hearing in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the county.

After naming or renaming a public road, or assigning or reassigning street numbers on a public road, a county shall cause notice of its action to be given to the local postmaster with jurisdiction over the road, to the Board of Transportation, and to the following agencies: Sampson County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Medical Services, Volunteer Fire Departments and the Sampson County Tax Office for annotation on county maps.

B. The Sampson County Equ Committee, or its subcommittee specifically appointed for the purpose of naming public and private roads in Sampson County, is authorized to determine the need for road names and changes and to recommend such additions or changes to the County Commissioners for both private and public roads outside the corporate limits of any municipality within the county. The Committee may recommend that the Board of Commissioners call any secondary road with a duplicate name or no name to public hearing. The following criteria shall be used to formulate recommendations for road names:

1. When appropriate and feasible, commonly-known, informal road names shall be retained.
2. Committee should utilize geographical, physical and historically significant factors regarding the road.
3. When a road passes into another county or a municipality, the proposed road name shall not conflict with a name given in any other county or municipality.
4. Names containing first or last family names shall be discouraged.
5. Undesirable or distasteful road names shall not be used.
6. If two or more parties request duplicate or near duplicate road names, the following priorities will apply:
 - a. Historical significance. Should the proposed name be historically significant to a specific road, that road will have first priority to receive the proposed name.
 - b. Condition of road. Roads in superior condition will have priority over those in inferior condition.
 - c. Length of road. All other factors being equal, the longest road shall take priority.
7. Road name changes should be allowed only when roads pass through incorporated and/or municipal areas, and when travel is disrupted by regulatory traffic control mechanism (such as stop signs, yield signs,

etc.) or when a clearly defined line of demarcation exists in the normal line of travel for the road.

C. A street name shall be assigned to any public or private road which provides access to three (3) or more residences, businesses, industries or combinations thereof, regardless of the length of such road; unless the Board of Commissioners finds and determines that naming a public or private road with access to fewer than three (3) residences, businesses, industries or combinations thereof is necessary to ensure adequate public safety and the timely provision of emergency services to the residents and businesses thereon, or the naming of a public or private road is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of Sampson County citizens.

D. Any road officially named by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners shall not be petitioned for a road name change unless the road has been physically altered or by special direction of the Board. Evidence must be presented that a mistake was made in the naming of the road, in the form of deeds, plats, or maps. If petition is made for a road name change, the petition must be signed by fifty percent (50%) plus one of the property owners along the road in question.

Section 303 Street Name Duplications

In accordance in G.S. 153A-239.1, a county may not assign a road name that is deceptively similar to the name of any other public or private road in the vicinity.

Section 304 Mobile Home Parks, Condominiums, Apartments, Planned Unit Developments, Public Housing Developments and Travel Trailer Parks

Where county records are incomplete, the owner of existing mobile home parks, condominiums, apartments, planned unit developments, public housing developments, and travel trailer parks shall, within thirty (30) days of request by the county, submit to the Tax Assessors Department, a legible map of their development, including the location, name and width of each roadway. Each lot or building within the development must also be identified.

Section 305 Prohibited Street Names

The Sampson County E911 Committee may disapprove newly proposed street names which fall under the following categories:

A. Street names which have numbers as part of the name, unless the name is well known and there is general acceptance of the name.

B. Street names that are difficult to pronounce.

C. Street names which are over fifteen (15) characters in total length, including spaces, but not including suffixes.

D. Street names which are duplicated in neighborhoods across County lines which are in the same U. S. Postal District, Volunteer Fire Department District, Rescue District or telephone exchange.

E. Street names using surnames unless the name is well known and there is general acceptance of the name.

F. Street names that are similar to the name of an existing subdivision unless the street lies within that same subdivision.

G. Duplicate or near duplicate road names.

Section 306 Subdivisions with Proposed New Streets

For all subdivisions which are developed and in which new streets are proposed, the following items must be submitted to the E911 Committee for approval before any property can be subdivided and recorded:

A. A scaled map of the overall tract illustrating street layout;

B. The name proposed for each street identified on the map; and

C. An alphabetical list of the proposed street names, together with an alternate name for each name proposed.

The E911 Committee will review the proposed street names for duplication and for overall compliance with the street naming and numbering policy.

The approved street names shall be included in the final plan submitted for recordation.

ARTICLE IV. APPEAL

Action taken by the E911 Committee or under guidelines set forth in this Ordinance may be appealed by the property owner(s). Such an appeal must be filed in writing to the County E911 Committee at the County Manager's office within thirty (30) working days of written notification of required owners action. This decision may be appealed to the County Manager within twenty (20) working days of receiving Committee decision. Further appeal may be made to the Sampson County Board of Commissioners within twenty (20) working days of receiving Manager's decision.

ARTICLE V. GENERAL STATUTES

It shall be unlawful for any person(s) without the written consent of Sampson County to:

A. Name or designate the name of any public road, neighborhood public road, private subdivision street or private mobile home park road, in the unincorporated areas of Sampson County.

B. Erect any street sign on any public road, neighborhood public road, private subdivision street or private mobile home park road in the unincorporated areas of Sampson County.

C. Erect any street sign on any roadway, public or private, in the unincorporated areas of Sampson County, which does not meet the current County sign specifications or NC Department of Transportation specifications.

D. Remove, deface, damage, or obscure a street sign in the jurisdiction of this Ordinance.

E. Number or assign a number to any structure without the written approval of Sampson County.

F. Name a private street or road which duplicates or is substantially similar to the name of an existing street or road within the unincorporated areas of Sampson County.

ARTICLE VI. PENALTY

Section 601

Any person violating the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50) or imprisonment of not more than thirty (30) days, as provided by North Carolina General Statutes 14-4C.

Section 602

Any violation of this Ordinance may be subject to civil remedies as set forth in North Carolina General Statutes 153A-123.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

This ordinance may be amended from time to time by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners.

ARTICLE VIII. SEPARABILITY

Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

ARTICLE IX. CONFLICT

Insofar as the provisions of this Ordinance are inconsistent with the provision of another law except a provision of state or federal law, the provision of this Ordinance shall control.

ARTICLE X. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effective upon adoption by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners and shall supersede any and all other ordinances adopted for the purpose of naming or renaming public and private roads in Sampson County.

Ordinance originally adopted: December 6, 1993.
Ordinance revision adopted: October 3, 2011.