



## TOWNSHIP OF NEWTOWN

### ORDINANCE 2016-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWTOWN, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CREATING CHAPTER 56, MISUSE OR ABUSE OF THE 9-1-1 SYSTEM.

**WHEREAS**, the Township has determined that in order to protect the health safety and welfare of the Township residents, it is necessary to prohibit the misuse and abuse of the 9-1-1 system and to penalize those persons who do so.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Township of Newtown hereby **ORDAINS** that:

The Board of Supervisors of the Township of Newtown does hereby ordain that the codified Ordinances of the Township of Newtown are hereby amended to add CHAPTER 56, MISUSE OR ABUSE OF THE 9-1-1 SYSTEM, as follows:

#### Section 1.

##### 56-1. Definitions

**PERSON** — Any individual, corporation, partnership, association, organization or similar entity.

##### 56-2. Intentional false 9-1-1 calls prohibited

- A. No person shall use the 9-1-1 telephone system for any purpose other than to make a legitimate request for police, fire, or emergency medical services.
- B. No person shall use the 9-1-1 telephone system to report an emergency knowing that the situation being reported does not exist.
- C. No person shall dial 9-1-1 and then hang up without speaking to the 9-1-1 system operator unless a legitimate emergency exists and prevents the caller from speaking.
- D. No parent, guardian or other person having care and custody of a juvenile or mentally handicapped individual shall permit or by insufficient control allow such person to violate the provisions of this section.

##### 56-3. Unintentional 9-1-1 calls.

- A. Unintentional calls to 9-1-1 made due to human error, equipment malfunctions, or equipment programming shall be the joint and several responsibility of the person dialing the unintentional 9-1-1 call and the owner, tenant, business occupant, occupant or person in control of a premises or telephone equipment including wireless telephones from which such false 9-1-1 calls originate.
- B. The person dialing the unintentional 9-1-1 call, or the owner, tenant, business occupant, occupant or person in control of a premises or telephone equipment including wireless telephones from which such false 9-1-1 calls originate shall be issued a citation for

violation of this section. No citations shall be issued for the first three false calls in a calendar year (January 1 — December 31).

**56-4. Violations and penalties.**

Any person who violates any provisions of this chapter shall, upon summary conviction before any District Justice, be subject to a fine of not less than twenty five dollars (\$25.00) and not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and cost of prosecution, and in default of fine and costs, such person may be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than thirty (30) days.

**Section 2. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption by The Township of Newtown.

**Section 3. Repealer.** All ordinances, resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are repealed, rescinded, canceled and annulled to the extent of such inconsistency.

**ORDAINED AND ENACTED THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF NEWTOWN

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
John Nawn, Chairman

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tina Roberts Lightcap, Assistant Secretary