

Ordinance

User Notes:

An "ordinance," as that term is typically used, refers to a local law of a municipal corporation, duly enacted by the proper authorities, prescribing general, uniform, and permanent rules of conduct, relating to the corporate affairs of the municipality. Ordinances may be used for purely administrative purposes, such as to establish an office or set salaries. An ordinance can either regulate conduct or, for example, when establishing a crime, prohibit described conduct or actions altogether.

If a state statute requires that an ordinance be used, then that requirement must be followed. In the absence of a statutory requirement, usually either an ordinance or a resolution may be used.

All cities and towns are required to publish every ordinance or summary of every ordinance in their official newspaper.

Comments:

There is authorization in the state statutes for all classes of cities to adopt ordinances. The MRSC publication "[Local Ordinances for Washington Cities and Counties, Report No. 50, May 2000](#)" contains detailed information on ordinance drafting techniques and requirements, style, and adoption procedures.

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