



Elkhart County Planning & Development

Public Services Building - 4230 Elkhart Road, Goshen, Indiana 46526

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Written Interpretation – Residential Accessory Firing Ranges

Question: Are there any separation or setback requirements for accessory firing ranges related to a residential use?

Relevant Code Citations: The Zoning Ordinance says:

“SPECIFICATIONS F - SPECIAL USES.

A. PERMITS FOR SPECIAL USES. The following uses, or structural alterations to them, which are classified as Special Uses, may be permitted by the Board of Zoning Appeals, in accordance with the procedure specified in this section.

11.10 Outdoor firearms and outdoor archery range in the A-1, B-1, B-2, B-3, M-1 and M-2 districts. (Amended 10/20/2003 PC03-31)”

Interpretation: The interpretation has been and continues to be that a Special Use Permit is required for a commercial outdoor firearms or archery range in the above zoning districts. The Ordinance is silent on how to treat noncommercial ranges, especially those associated with a residence or adjacent to a residence. Based on a conversation with Elkhart County Sheriff, any complaints that Planning and Development receives about noncommercial firing ranges should be referred to the Sheriff’s Office at (574) 891-2100.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brian Mabry'.

05/02/13

Brian Mabry, AICP

Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement Manager