



February 2009

## Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate



Hillsborough County uses a Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate system as authorized under Florida Statute, Chapter 162 and County Ordinance 05-5. Persons found to be in violation of a Code enforced by Code Enforcement are given every opportunity to comply before any penalty is assessed. Those who fail to comply with the Code within the time allotted may have their case forwarded to the Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate where fines may be levied as a lien against the offender's property.

### Q. Should I attend a Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate Hearing?

Yes. Although it is not obligatory to attend the hearing, it is in your best interest. Remember, the case will be heard whether or not you appear.

### Q. What happens if I am found guilty?

When a property is found to be in violation at a code enforcement hearing, an Order Imposing Fine is issued, stating the case facts and giving the violator time to come into compliance with said codes and ordinances.

If the property is not brought into compliance within the time ordered, a fine per day may commence. The Order Imposing Fine may be recorded in the Public Record and will constitute a lien against the property in violation and against any other real or personal property owned by the violator. The fine will continue to run daily until the property is brought into compliance. Once compliance is achieved, the fine will stop increasing, but the fine total, which is a lien, remains against the property until satisfied.

### Q. What is a repeat violator?

Repeat violator is a person who has been previously found guilty through a Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate and who has

violated or has admitted violating the same provision within five years regardless of where the violations occur. In other words, if the same violation occurs within 5 years at any property owned by the repeat violator in unincorporated Hillsborough County, the case could be sent directly to the Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate without any additional time to comply.

### Q. How much is the fine?

The amount of the fine is determined by the Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate and can range up to \$1,000 per day for each day that the violation continues to exist. The fine for a repeat violator can range up to \$5,000 per day. A fine that has continued to accrue for 90 days is forwarded to the Hillsborough County Attorney's office for possible legal action.

### Q. Who makes up the Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate?

The Code Enforcement Board is a quasi-judicial body consisting of seven Hillsborough County citizens appointed for three (3) year terms by the Board of County Commissioners. The Code Enforcement Special Magistrates are also quasi-judicial bodies comprised of one citizen appointed by the Board of County Commissioners for a three (3) year term. The Board and the Special Magistrate have the same powers and duties and are empowered by Florida Statutes, Chapter 162 and Hillsborough County Ordinance 05-5. Hillsborough County announces open Board positions through local media and on the Web. Applications are available in the Commissioners' reception area in the County Center, 2nd Floor, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa, by calling the Boards and Councils Coordinator at (813)272-5826, or on the Web at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/boccc/](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/boccc/) click on Advisory Boards and Committees, then on Application Questionnaire for County Appointments.

### Q. How do I report a violation?

Reporting problems can be done in several ways including:

- Logging on to [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce) and then clicking on the Online Services link on the left side of the page
- Calling (813) 274-6600 during normal business hours
- Calling (813) 272-5900 seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- Visiting 10119 Windhorst Rd., Tampa, FL 33619
- Visiting 410 S.E. 30th St., Ruskin, FL 33570



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Kemly Green at [greenkj@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:greenkj@hillsboroughcounty.org)

Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Department

10119 Windhorst Rd., Tampa, FL 33619 | 813-274-6600 | [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce)