

## What is the City of Appleton noise ordinance?

Noise is regulated under Chapter 12, Article IV, of the Appleton Municipal code. This article applies to the control of noise originating within the corporate limits of the City. In general, no person shall make or cause to be made any loud, disturbing, or unnecessary sounds or noises such as may tend to annoy or disturb a reasonable person in or about any public street, alley or park or any private residence.

## Do I need a noise variance?

There are times when a private or public event has amplified music/sound, live music, crowd sound, and other planned sound which makes adherence to the noise ordinance difficult or unreasonable. It is recommended that a noise variance request be submitted when the noise ordinance might be exceeded.

Note: A separate Special Event License may be appropriate for your event. Learn more about Special Events and the licensing process here: <https://www.appleton.org/government/city-clerk/licenses>

## How do I apply for a noise variance?

Please submit a noise variance request using the online form here:

<https://www.appleton.org/residents/health/noise-variance>

Please apply 45 days or more in advance of your event to allow time to appeal if your request has been denied. There is no fee to request or obtain a noise variance.

If you are unable to use the online form, you may mail a letter requesting a noise variance to:

Appleton Health Department  
Attn: Health Officer, Charles Sepers  
100 North Appleton Street  
Appleton, WI 54911

The letter must include:

- Your Email Address
- Event Contact Person, First and Last Name
- Contact Person Phone Number
- Event Name
- Event Address
- Date of Event
- Start and End Time of Noise Variance
- Source of Noise: Amplified Music/Sound, Live Music, Crowd Sound, Other

## If my noise variance is approved, is there anything else I need to do?

Once the Health Officer approves your noise variance request, you will receive an approval letter by email. Keep your approval letter handy so that you may show it to City Officials in case they are called to investigate the noise.

## If my noise variance is denied, is there anything else I can do?

If the Health Officer denies your noise variance request, you will be notified in writing by email. You may appeal a denied noise variance decision to the Board of Health. The Health Department must receive your written request for an appeal no later than the Thursday before the next scheduled Board of Health meeting to get your appeal on the next Board of Health agenda.

If your request was denied and you submitted a written request for an appeal, you will need to appear at the Board of Health meeting where you will be given an opportunity to be heard. The Board of Health meets at 7:00 AM on the second Wednesday of each month in room 6-A at City Hall. You may be asked to provide evidence to the Board of Health on how you plan to ensure noise will be controlled at your event. The Board of Health recommendation will then be presented at the next Common Council meeting for the Common Council's approval. Although you are not required to be present at the Common Council meeting, you may attend. Once the Common Council approves or denies the Board of Health recommendation you will be notified, in writing, of the decision.