

**CITY OF WRENS  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
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**Juvenile Evening Curfew**

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Sec. 3-6-1 Title.

This chapter shall be known and referred to as the "City of Wrens Juvenile Evening Curfew Ordinance."

Sec.3-6-2 Purpose.

The mayor and council have determined that there has been an increase in juvenile violence and crime by persons under the age of 17 in the City resulting in juveniles being involved in a wide range of unacceptable behavior; that persons under the age of 17 are particularly susceptible by their lack of maturity and experience to participate in unlawful activity and to be victims of older perpetrators of crime; that there has been a significant breakdown in the supervision and guidance normally provided by parents for minors resulting in an increase in crime, substance abuse, school drop out rates, juvenile pregnancy, and other illicit behavior. The City has an obligation to provide for the protection of minors from each other and from other persons, for the enforcement of parental control over and responsibility for children, for the protection of the general public, and for the reduction of the incidence of juvenile criminal activities which are not easily controlled by existing laws and ordinances. The mayor and council have determined that a curfew for those under the age of 17 will be in the interest of the public health, safety, and general welfare and will help to attain the foregoing objectives and to diminish the undesirable impact of such conduct on the citizens of the City of Wrens and will promote the public good, safety and welfare. Parental responsibility for the whereabouts of children is the accepted norm and legal sanctions to enforce such responsibility have had demonstrated effectiveness in many cities. The mayor and council have determined that a curfew ordinance will increase parental responsibility for minors within their control and decrease minor delinquency.

Sec. 3-6-3 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. Emergency Errand. A mission that results from an unforeseen combination of circumstances that call for immediate action. The term

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includes, but is not limited to, a fire, a natural disaster, or automobile accident, or any situation requiring immediate action to prevent serious bodily injury or loss of life.

- b. Minor. Any unemancipated person under the age of seventeen (17).
- c. Public Place. Any place to which the public has access and includes, but is not limited to, public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, eating establishments, playgrounds, malls, or other places or buildings open to the public; any cemeteries, school yards, bodies of water or watercourses; any privately or publicly owned places of amusement, entertainment, or public accommodation including parking lots; and any vacant lot or land.

Sec. 3-6-4 Hours of curfew; Exceptions.

It shall be unlawful for any minor under the age of seventeen (17) years to loiter, wander, stroll, or play in any public place unsupervised by his/her parent, legal guardian, or other adult over the age of twenty-one (21) years having the lawful care and custody of the minor and having the lawful authority, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. on weekdays (not to include Friday) and Sunday evening; provided, however, that on Friday and Saturday evening the effective hours are between 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m.; and provided further that the provisions of this section shall not apply in the following circumstances:

- a. When a minor is accompanied by his/her parent, guardian, or other adult over the age of twenty-one (21) years having the lawful care and custody of the minor;
- b. When the minor is upon an emergency errand directed by his/her parent, guardian, or other adult over the age of twenty-one (21) years having the lawful care and custody of the minor;
- c. When the minor is traveling to, or returning directly home from, lawful employment that makes it necessary to be in the above-referenced places during the proscribed period of time;
- d. When the minor is returning directly home from a school activity;
- e. When the minor is attending or traveling directly to or from an activity involving the exercise of First Amendment rights of free speech, freedom of assembly, or free exercise of religion;
- f. When the minor is engaged in interstate and intrastate vehicular travel through the City of Wrens with parental consent;

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Sec. 3-6-5 Parent, Guardian or Other Person Having Custody or Control of Child to Permit Minor's Violation Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or control of any child under the age of seventeen (17) years, to permit, or by insufficient control, to allow such minor to violate the provisions of this chapter. A person charged with violation of this section for the first time shall be given a warning citation. Upon subsequent violation, the person shall be charged with such violation and, if found guilty, such person shall be subject to punishment as provided in section 3-6-6 of this chapter.

Sec. 3-6-6 Violation and Penalty.

Any person found guilty of a violation of this chapter shall be charged with such violation and upon trial as a misdemeanor and conviction shall be subject to a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine.

Sec. 3-6-7 Jurisdiction

Any minor under the age of seventeen (17) who violates the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court of Jefferson County. Any parent, guardian, or other person having custody who violates this chapter shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the City of Wrens Municipal Court.

Sec. 3-6-8 Expiration.

This chapter shall automatically expire twenty-four (24) months after the date of its enactment. This provision is included in this chapter to ensure that this chapter, its effectiveness, and its necessity will be reviewed by the mayor and council within a reasonable time after its adoption. (Ordinance enacted on July 10, 2001.)