

CHAPTER EIGHT

OFFENSES

ARTICLE 1 - In General

8.0101 Criminal Contempt

1. The Municipal Court has power to punish for contempt of its authority for the following offenses:
 - a. Misbehavior of any person in its presence or so near thereto as to obstruct the administration of justice;
 - b. Misbehavior of any of its officers in their official transactions; or
 - c. Disobedience or resistance to its lawful writ, process, order, rule, decree or command.
2. A criminal contempt proceeding under this section is not a bar to subsequent prosecution for a specific offense if the court certifies in the judgment of conviction of criminal contempt, or the order terminating the proceeding without acquittal or dismissal, that a summary criminal contempt proceeding was necessary to prevent repetition of misbehavior disruptive of an ongoing proceeding and that subsequent prosecution as a specific offense is warranted.
3. This section shall not be construed to deprive a court of its power, by civil contempt proceedings, to compel compliance with its lawful writ, process, order, rule, decree or command or to compensate a complainant for losses sustained by reason of disobedience or resistance thereto, in accordance with the prevailing usages of law and equity, including the power of detention.

8.0102 Hindering Proceedings by Disorderly Conduct

A person is guilty of an offense if the person recklessly or intentionally hinders an official city proceeding by noise or violent or tumultuous behavior or disturbance.

8.0103 Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Police Officer

Any driver of a motor vehicle who willfully fails or refuses to bring the vehicle to a stop, or who otherwise flees or attempts to elude a pursuing police vehicle, when given a visual or audible signal to bring the vehicle to a stop, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. A signal complies with the section if the signal is perceptible to the driver and the police officer giving such signal is in uniform, prominently displaying the officer's badge of office, and the vehicle is appropriately marked showing it to be an official police vehicle. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 39-10-71).

8.0104 Interference with Officers

No person in the City shall resist any police or fire officer, any member of the police or fire departments, or any person duly empowered with police or fire authority, while in the discharge or apparent discharge of duty, or in any way interfere with or hinder in the discharge of duty.

8.0105 False Alarms or False Reports

No person in the City shall intentionally make, turn in, or give a false alarm of fire, or of need for police or ambulance assistance, or aid or abet in the commission of such act. No person in the City shall make to, or file with, the police department of the City any false, misleading or unfounded statement or report concerning the commission or alleged commission of any crime occurring in the City.

ARTICLE 2 - Offense Against Property

Division 1. Property Destruction and Criminal Intrusion

8.0201 Criminal Mischief— Penalty

A person is guilty of an offense if that person:

- a. Willfully tampers with tangible property of another so as to endanger person or property; or
- b. Willfully damages tangible property of another.

Conduct is punishable as criminal mischief under this ordinance when pecuniary loss, if Intentionally caused, is not in excess of one hundred dollars (\$ 100.00); if recklessly caused, is not in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00); and if the damages to tangible property of another are not by means of an explosive or a destructive device.

- c. The penalty for the offense of criminal mischief may not exceed a fine of one thousand dollars (\$ 1,000.00), imprisonment from thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. (Source: North Dakota Century Code sections 12.1-21-05 and 40-05-06)

8.0202 Tampering with or Damaging a Public Service

A person is guilty of an offense if that person causes a substantial interruption or impairment of a public communication, transportation, supply of water, gas, power or other public service by:

- a. Tampering with or damaging the tangible property of another;
- b. Incapacitating an operator of such service; or
- c. Negligently damaging the tangible property of another by fire, explosive or other dangerous means. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-21-06).

8.0203 Consent as a Defense and Definition of "of another" for Criminal Mischief or Tampering, with or Damaging a Public Service

For prosecution of criminal mischief under 8.0201 or tampering with or damaging a public Service under 8.0202.

1. Whenever it is an element of the offense that the property is of another, it is a defense to a prosecution under those sections that the other has consented to the actor's conduct with respect to the property.
2. Property is that "of another" if anyone other than the actor has a possessory or proprietary interest therein. (Source: North Dakota Century Code sections 12.1-21-07 and 12.1-21-08(2)).

8.0204 Criminal Trespass

A person is guilty of an offense if, knowing that the person is not licensed or privileged to do so, that person, enters or remains in any place as to which notice against trespass is given by actual communication to the actor by the person in charge of the premises or other authorized person or by posting in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-22-03 (3)).

Division 2. Theft and Related Offenses

8.0205 Consolidated Theft Offenses

1. Conduct denominated theft in Sections 8.0306 to 8.0308 constitutes a single offense designed to include the separate offenses heretofore known as larceny, stealing, purloining, embezzlement, obtaining money or property by false pretenses, extortion, blackmail, fraudulent conversion, receiving stolen property, misappropriation of public funds, swindling and the like.
2. A charge of theft under 12.0306 to 8.0308, which fairly apprises the defendant of the nature of the charges against the defendant, shall not be deemed insufficient because it fails to specify a particular category of theft. The defendant may be found guilty of theft under such charge if the defendant's conduct falls under 8.0306 to 8.0308, so long as the conduct proved is sufficiently related to the conduct charged that the accused is not unfairly surprised by the case that must be met. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-23-01).

8.0206 Theft of property

A person is guilty of theft if that person:

- a. Knowingly takes or exercises unauthorized control over, or makes an unauthorized transfer of an interest in, the property of another with intent to deprive the owner thereof;
- b. Knowingly obtains the property of another by deception or by threat with intent to deprive the owner thereof, or intentionally deprives another of his property by deception or by threat; or
- c. Knowingly receives, retains or disposes of property of another which has been stolen, with intent to deprive the owner thereof. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-23-02).

8.0207 Theft of Services

A person is guilty of theft if:

- a. The person intentionally obtains services, known by the person to be available only for compensation, by deception, threat, false token or other means to avoid payment for the services; or
- b. Having control over the disposition of services of another to which the person is not entitled, the person knowingly diverts those services to his own benefit or to the benefit of another not entitled thereto.

Where compensation for services is ordinarily paid immediately upon their rendition, as in the case of hotels, restaurants, and comparable establishments, absconding without payment or making provision to pay is prima facie evidence that the services were obtained by deception. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-23-03).

8.0208 Theft of Property Lost, Mislaid or Delivered by Mistakes

A person is guilty of theft if the person:

- a. Retains or disposes of property of another when that person knows it has been lost or mislaid; or
- b. Retains or disposes of property of another when that person knows it has been delivered under a mistake as to the identity of the recipient or as to the nature or amount of the property; and with intent to deprive the owner of it, he fails to take readily available and reasonable measures to restore the property of a person entitled to have it. (Source: North Dakota Century Code Section 12.1-23-04).

8.0209 Thefts Punishable Under City Ordinances

Theft under 8.0306 to 8.0308 may be punished as an offense against the City ordinances if the highest value by any reasonable standard, regardless of the actor's knowledge of such value, of the property or services which were stolen by the actor, or which the actor believed that he was stealing, or which the actor could reasonably have anticipated to have been the property or services involved, does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and if:

- a. The theft was not committed by threat;
- b. The theft was not committed by deception by one who stood in a confidential or fiduciary relationship to the victim of the theft;
- c. The defendant was not a public servant or an officer or employee of a financial institution who committed the theft in the course of official duties;
- d. The property stolen is not a firearm, ammunition, explosive or destructive device, or an automobile, aircraft or other motor-propelled vehicle;
- e. The property does not consist of any government file, record, document or other government paper stolen from any government office or from any public servant;
- f. The defendant is not in the business of buying or selling stolen property and he does not receive, retain or dispose of the property in the course of that business;
- g. The property stolen does not consist of any implement, paper or other thing uniquely associated with the preparation of any money, stamp, bond or other document, instrument or obligation of the State of North Dakota;
- h. The property stolen does not consist of livestock taken from the premises of the owner;
- i. The property stolen does not consist of a key or other implement uniquely suited to provide access to property the theft of which would be a felony or was not stolen to gain such access.
- j. The property stolen is not a card, plate, or other credit device existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services on credit, or is a debit card, electronic fund transfer card, code or other means of access to an account for the purpose of initiating electronic fund transfers. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-23-05).

8.0210 Defrauding Secured Creditors — Penalty

A person is guilty of an offense if he removes, conceals, encumbers, transfers, or otherwise deals with property subject to a security interest with intent to prevent collection of the debt represented by the security interest or if he makes false statements at the time of sale as to the existence of security interests.

8.0211 Retail Theft - Shoplifting

- 1 . Presumption. Any person concealing upon that person's person or among that person's belongings, or causing to be concealed upon the person or among the belongings of another, unpurchased merchandise displayed, held, offered or stored for sale in a retail mercantile establishment and removing it to a point beyond the last station for receiving payments in that retail mercantile establishment shall be prima facie presumed to have so concealed such merchandise with the intention of permanently depriving the merchant of possession or of the full retail value of such merchandise. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 51-21-02)
2. Detention of Suspect — Procedure. Any peace officer or merchant who reasonably believes that a person has committed, or is in the process of committing then may detain such person, on or off the premises of a retail mercantile establishment, in a reasonable manner and for a reasonable length of time for all or any of the following purposes:
 - a. To require the person to identify himself;
 - b. To verify such identification;
 - c. To determine whether such person has in the person's possession unpurchased merchandise and, if so, to recover such merchandise;
 - d. To inform a peace officer of the detention of the person and surrender custody of that person to a peace officer;
 - e. In the case of a minor, to inform a peace officer, the parents, guardian or other private person interested in the welfare of that minor of this detention and to surrender custody of said minor to the person informed. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 51-21-03)
3. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise:
 - a. An item is "concealed" within the meaning of this section if, even though there is some notice of its presence, the item itself is not visible through ordinary observation.
 - b. "Full retail value" means the merchant's stated or advertised price of the merchandise.
 - c. "Merchandise" means any item of tangible personal property and specifically includes shopping carts.
 - d. "Merchant" means an owner or operator of any retail mercantile establishment or any agent, employee, lessee, consignee, officer, franchise or independent contractor or such owner or operator.
 - e. "Person" means any natural person or individual.

- f. "Premises of a retail mercantile establishment" includes, but is not limited to, the retail mercantile establishment, any common use areas in shopping centers, and all parking areas set aside by a merchant, or on behalf of a merchant for the parking of vehicles for the convenience of the patrons of said retail mercantile establishment.
 - g. "Retail mercantile establishment" means any place where merchandise is displayed, held, offered or stored for sale to the public.
 - h. "Shopping cart" means those push carts of the type or types which are commonly provided by grocery stores, drugstores or other retail mercantile establishments for the use of the public in transporting commodities in stores and markets and, incidentally, from the stores to a place outside the store. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 51-21-01)
4. Theft of unpurchased merchandise, displayed, held, offered or stored for sale in a mercantile establishment from that establishment when open for business is "shoplifting" for which the offender may be assessed a penalty upon conviction not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$100.00), imprisonment of thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 40-05-06).

8.0212 Defenses and Proof as to Theft and Related Offenses

- 1. It is a defense to a prosecution under this Article that:
 - a. The actor honestly believed that he had a claim to the property or services involved which he was entitled to assert in the manner which forms the basis for the charge against him; or
 - b. The victim is the actor's spouse, but only when the property involved constitutes household or personal effects or other property normally accessible to both spouses and the parties involved are living together. The term 'spouse', as used in this section includes persons living together as husband and wife.
- 2. It does not constitute a defense to a prosecution for conducts constituting an offense in violation of this article that:
 - a. Stratagem or deception, including the use of an undercover operative or law enforcement officer, was employed;
 - b. A facility or an opportunity to engage in such conduct, including offering for sale property not stolen as if it were stolen, was provided; or
 - c. Mere solicitation that would not induce an ordinary law-abiding person to engage in such conduct was made by a law enforcement officer to gain evidence against a person predisposed to engage in such conduct.
- 3. a. It is a prima facie case of theft under this Article if it is shown that a public servant or an officer, director, agent, employee of, or a person connected in any capacity with a financial institution has failed to pay or account upon lawful demand for money or property entrusted to him as part of his official duties or if an audit reveals a shortage or falsification of his accounts.

b It is a prima facie case of theft under this Article if it is shown that a person, having successfully bid on and obtained an item at an auction, removed the item from the auction premises without paying or making provisions to pay for the item.

c Proof of the purchase or sale of stolen property at a price substantially below its fair market value, unless satisfactorily explained, gives rise to an inference that the person buying or selling the property was aware of the risk that it had been stolen.

d Proof of the purchase or sale of stolen property by a dealer in property, out of the regular course of business, or without the usual induce of ownership other than mere possession, unless satisfactorily explained, gives rise to an inference that the person buying or selling the property was aware of the risk that it had been stolen. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-23-09).

8.0208 Definitions

In this Article:

1. "Dealer in property" means a person who buys or sells property as a business.
2. "Deception" means:
 - a. Creating or reinforcing a false impression, including false impressions as to fact, law, status, value, intention or other state of mind; but deception as to a person's intention to perform a promise shall not be inferred from the fact alone that he did not substantially perform the promise unless it is part of a continuing scheme to defraud; or
 - b. Preventing another from acquiring information which would affect his judgment of a transaction; or
 - c. Failing to correct a false impression which the actor previously created or reinforced, or which he knows to be influencing another to whom he stands in fiduciary or confidential relationship; or
 - d. Failing to correct an impression which the actor previously created or reinforced and which the actor knows to have become false due to subsequent events; or
 - e. Failing to disclose a lien, adverse claim, or other impediment to the enjoyment of property which he or encumbers in consideration for the property obtained or in order to continue to deprive another of his property, whether such impediment is or is not valid, or is or is not a matter of official record; or
 - f. Using a credit card, charge plate or any other instrument which purports to evidence an undertaking to pay for property or services delivered or rendered to or upon the order of a designated person or bearer (i.) where such instrument has been stolen, forged, revoked or canceled, or where for any other reason its use by the actor is unauthorized, and (ii.) where the actor does not have the intention and ability to meet all obligations to the issuer arising out of his use of the instrument; or
 - g. Any other scheme to defraud. The term "deception" does not, however, include falsifications as to matters having no pecuniary significance, or puffing by statements unlikely to deceive ordinary persons in the group addressed. "Puffing"

means an exaggerated commendation of wares in communications addressed to the public or to a class or group.

3. "Deprive" means:
 - a. To withhold property or to cause it to be withheld either permanently or under such circumstances that a major portion of its economic value, or its use and benefit, has, in fact, been appropriated; or
 - b. To withhold property or to cause it to be withheld with the intent to restore it only upon the payment of a reward or other compensation; or
 - c. To dispose of property or use it or transfer any interest in it under circumstances that make its restoration, in fact, unlikely.
4. "Fiduciary" means a trustee, guardian, executor, administrator, receiver or any other person acting in a fiduciary capacity, or any person carrying on fiduciary functions on behalf of a corporation or other organization which is a fiduciary.
5. "Financial institution" means a bank, insurance company, credit union, safety deposit company, savings and loan association, investment trust or other organization held out to the public as a place of deposit of funds or medium of savings or collective investment.
6. "Obtain" means:
 - a. In relation to property, to bring about a transfer or purported transfer of an interest in the property, whether to the actor or another; or
 - b. In relation to services, to secure performance thereof.
7. "Property" means any money, tangible or intangible personal property, property (whether real or personal) the location of which can be changed (including things growing on, affixed to, or found in land and documents although the rights represented thereby have no physical location), contract right, chose-in-action, interest in or claim to wealth, credit or any other article or thing of value of any kind. "Property" also means real property, the location of which cannot be moved if the offense involves transfer or attempted transfer of an interest in the property.
 8. "Property of another" means property in which a person other than the actor or in which a government has an interest without consent, regardless of the fact that the actor also has an interest in the property and regardless of the fact that the other person or government might be precluded from civil recovery because the property was used in an unlawful transaction or was subject to forfeiture as contraband. Property in possession of the actor shall not be deemed property of another that has a security interest therein, even if legal title is in the creditor pursuant to a conditional sales or other security agreement. "Owner" means any person or a government with an interest in property such that it is "property of another" as far as the actor is concerned.
9. "Receiving," means acquiring possession, control or title, or lending on the security of the property.

10. "Services" means labor, professional service, transportation, telephone, mail or other public service, gas, electricity and other public utility services, accommodations in hotels, restaurants, or elsewhere, admission to exhibitions, and use of vehicles or other property.
11. "Stolen" means property which has been the subject of theft or robbery or a vehicle which is received from a person who is then in violation of North Dakota Century Code Section 12.1-23-06.
12. "Threat" means an expressed purpose, however communicated, to:
 - a. Cause bodily injury in the future to the person threatened or to any other person; or
 - b. Cause damage to property; or
 - c. Subject the person threatened or any other person to physical confinement or restraint; or
 - d. Engage in other conduct constituting a crime; or
 - e. Accuse anyone of a crime; or
 - f. Expose a secret or publicize an asserted fact, whether true or false, tending to subject a person living or deceased, to hatred, contempt or ridicule or to impair another's credit or business repute; or
 - g. Reveal any information sought to be concealed by the person threatened; or
 - h. Testify or provide information or withhold testimony or information with respect to another's legal claim or defense; or
 - i. Take or withhold official action as a public servant, or cause a public servant to take or withhold official action; or
 - j. Bring about or continue to strike, boycott or other similar collective action to obtain property or deprive another of his property which is not demanded or received for the benefit of the group which the actor purports to represent; or
 - k. Cause anyone to be dismissed from his employment, unless the property is demanded or obtained for lawful union purposes; or
 - l. Do any other act which would not in itself substantially benefit the actor or a group he represents but which is calculated to harm another person in a substantial manner with respect to his health, safety, business, employment, calling, career, financial condition, reputation or personal relationship.

Upon a charge of theft, the receipt of property in consideration for taking or withholding official action shall be deemed to be theft by threat regardless of whether the owner voluntarily parted with his property or he initiated the scheme.

13. "Traffic" means:
 - a. To sell, transfer, distribute, dispense or otherwise dispose of to another person; or

- b. To buy, receive, possess or obtain control of, with intent to sell, transfer, distribute, dispense or otherwise dispose of to another person. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1 -23-10)

ARTICLE 3 — Offenses Against Public Order, Health, Safety and Sensibilities

Division 1. Riot

8.0301 Engaging in a Riot

1. A person is guilty of an offense if that person engages in a riot.
2. "Riot" means a public disturbance involving an assemblage of five (5) or more persons, which by tumultuous and violent conduct creates grave danger of damage or injury to property or persons or substantially obstructs law enforcement or other government function. (Source: North Dakota Century Code sections 12.1-25-01(2) and 12.1-25-03)

8.0302 Disobedience of Public Safety Orders Under Riot Conditions

A person is guilty of an offense if, during a riot as defined in Section 13.0401(2) or which when one is immediately impending, he disobeys a reasonable public safety order to move, disperse or refrain from specified activities in the immediate vicinity of the riot. A public safety order is an order designated to prevent or control disorder, or promote the safety of persons or property, issued by the senior law enforcement official on the scene. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-25-04).

Division 2. Disorderly Conduct

8.0303 Disorderly Conduct

1. An individual is guilty of violating the ordinances of this City, if with intent to harass, annoy or alarm another person or in reckless disregard of the fact that another is harassed, annoyed or alarmed by the individual's behavior, the individual:
 - a. Engages in fighting or in violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior;
 - b. Makes unreasonable noise;
 - c. In a public place, uses abusive or obscene language, or makes an obscene gesture;
 - d. Obstructs vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or the use of a public facility;
 - e. Persistently follows a person in or about a public place or places;
 - f. While loitering in a public place for the purpose of soliciting sexual contact, the individual solicits such contact;
 - g. Creates a hazardous, physically offensive, or seriously alarming condition by any act that serves no legitimate purpose; or
 - h. Engages in harassing conduct by means of intrusive or unwanted acts, words, or gestures that are intended to adversely affect the safety, security, or privacy of another person. (Source: North Dakota Century Code Section 12.1-31-01).

8.0304 Defense when Conduct Consist of Constitutionally Protected Activity

Ordinance 8.0303 does not apply to constitutionally protected activity. If an individual claims to have been engaged in a constitutionally protected activity, the court shall determine the validity of the claim, as a matter of law, and, if found valid, shall exclude evidence of the activity. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-31-01 (2)).

ORDINANCE 8.

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING DISORDERLY CONDUCT

SECTION 1.

ADOPTION OF NORTH DAKOTA CENTURY CODE. There is hereby adopted by the City of Park River for the purpose of providing for additional regulations of disorderly conduct, being particularly the adoption of the following statutes, to-wit:

12.1-31-01 (Disorderly conduct)

SECTION 2.

It is the expressed purpose of this Ordinance to adopt by the City of Park River the same provisions that exist with respect to the laws of the State of North Dakota. By creating this Ordinance, the violation of state law of the above statutes will henceforth be also a violation of the City Ordinance of the City of Park River, and any changes or amendments by the state will be considered to be application therefrom this ordinance.

-Revised 12-30-15