



DERELICT PROPERTY

The city has some criteria for what makes a property unfit for human occupation or use. A building official will inspect the property to determine if the property's conditions are potentially dangerous or unhealthy for the property's occupants, occupants of neighboring buildings, and other residents of the city. What are these conditions?

- Defects that increase the risk of fire, accidents, or other calamities
- Lack of adequate ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities
- Dilapidation
- Disrepair
- Structural defects
- Uncleanliness

An unoccupied property, like a house that the owners don't live in anymore, might meet some of these criteria. If there's a derelict property near you that you'd like to do something about, either a public authority or a group of five or more concerned citizens must file a petition with the building official.

These cases do require extensive research and often take a long time to be resolved. There's a lot of legal protocol the city must follow before it can take any action, and sometimes proceedings can take months.

With that in mind, if you suspect a code violation in your neighborhood, follow [this link](#) for the reporting form. You can also contact Melanie Adkins, the city's Code Enforcement Officer, by calling (423)224-2633.