

Summary of Changes to the Alarm Ordinance

Several changes were made to the Alarm Systems Chapter of the Township Code throughout 2015 in an effort to:

- Amend the registration requirement to be voluntary, as opposed to mandatory
- Eliminate the \$25 registration fee
- Update technical terminology
- Remove the permit requirement for alarm systems
- Add references to the fire department

Even though a number of the amendments to this Chapter will lessen the burden on homeowners, it is important to stress the value and importance of the voluntary registration and renewal process. The registration process provides important emergency contact information to the West Chester Police Department:

- Property information
- Lessee information (if a property is leased or rented)
- Alarm company information
- Emergency contact information

When the Police Department receives notice that an alarm has been activated, the alarm company rarely provides the Department with this important contact information. Only when the Police have this information on file, can they:

- Attempt to contact the owner on the way to the property
- Attempt to assess whether there might be any type of hostage situation
- Contact the property owner if there has been a break in

Each year, the West Chester Police Department asks alarm owners to renew their registrations to ensure they have the most accurate contact information on file. Please be responsive to this request to ensure that the Department can reach you in the event of an emergency.

Links to the update ordinance and registration form are on the Township website / [Public information](#) / [General Information](#).