The Tama County Board of Health is empowered through Chapters 137 and 657 of the Iowa Code to investigate and order abatement of public health nuisances within Tama County. However, it shall be the policy of the Tama County Board of Health to investigate public health nuisances in only the unincorporated areas of Tama County. All individuals reporting public health nuisances to the Tama County Environmentalist which are in the incorporated communities of Tama County will be referred to the Mayor and City Council of the appropriate community for action.

Nuisances are investigated once a formal written complaint is filed. The Environmentalist and Board of Health will determine whether the nuisance constitutes an actual health threat to the general public and take appropriate action thereafter.

Policy purpose: To maintain consistent practices when dealing with nuisance complaints or Board of Health violations. To exercise power given to the Board of Health by Iowa Code Chapter 137 “Local Health Act.” To enforce Iowa Code Chapter 657 “Nuisances.” To equitably enforce all restrictions in the Iowa Administrative Code pertinent to local Boards of Health.

A nuisance is defined by Iowa Code as “Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as essentially to unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property, is a nuisance, and a civil action by ordinary proceedings may be brought to enjoin and abate the same and to recover damages sustained on account thereof.”

Upon complaint to or visual coincidence by a Tama County Board of Health representative the following procedure will be followed:

1. Fill out “complaint form” in order to get specific details down from the source of the complaint.
2. On site investigation by the County Environmentalist (with Sheriff deputy if needed) to take pictures and notes on the complaint.
3. County Environmentalist will determine if complaint requires further action or merely a phone call to the landowner.
4. If violation is confirmed as being in process, the County Environmentalist will send a return receipt letter to the landowner to abate the nuisance and give a time frame in which it needs to be completed.
5. County Environmentalist will report all complaints or visual coincidences at the next scheduled Board of Health meeting (or request a special meeting if needed) to receive input and guidance.
6. County Environmentalist (with Sheriff deputy if needed) will return to the site of the complaint and follow up to confirm the nuisance has been abated.
7. Follow up will be reported to the Board of Health and the source of the complaint.
8. In a case where the nuisance is not abated by the given time frame, the matter will be turned over to the County Attorney’s office for further action.
9. County Environmentalist will continue to keep the Board of Health informed of progress.
Complaint to the Tama County Board of Health

- Nature of the Un-healthful condition to which the attention of the Board of health is Requested:

- Location of Premises on which the conditions exists:

- Name & address of person in control or possession of premises:

- Period, including date of latest observation, that the condition was seen by complainant:

- Name & address of person believed responsible for the Un-healthy condition:

- Additional comments relevant to the complaint:

“I have personal knowledge of the condition of which complaint is made and will cooperate with the Tama county board of Health to the extent of given evidence if requested to remedy the Un-healthy condition. The above statements are true to the best of my information and belief.”

Dated this day of 20

Signed
Printed Name
Address
Home Phone
Daytime Phone