Fences

✓ A fence is defined as a barrier for the purpose of enclosing space or separating lots, composed of (1) masonry or concrete walls, excluding retaining walls; or (2) wood, metal, or concrete posts connected by solid wood or rigid vinyl boards, wrought iron rails, or chain links, or other materials with similar purpose, strength and durability approved by the Zoning Administrator.

✓ All fences require a zoning permit.

✓ Fences in front yards need to allow at least 50% visibility through the fence (wrought iron, chain link, picket, etc.)

✓ No fence over 6 feet in height is permitted in any residential district.

✓ No barbed wire fences are allowed within Spring Lake Township, unless used as part of a farming operation.

✓ Fences may be placed on the property line. It is your responsibility to know where your property lines are.

Corner Lots

✓ Fences or landscaping cannot block the clear vision areas at an intersection, 25 feet back from where a car sits on the road. This is required for public safety so drivers can see when they are making turns.

Residential Lots

In Side and Rear Yards:
Fences can be up to 6 feet. No barbed wire fences are permitted, unless part of a farming operation.

In Required Front Yard:
✓ Fencing needs to allow at least 50% visibility (wrought iron, chain link, picket, etc.) and can’t be higher than 4 feet. Fences cannot be placed in the right-of-way.

Permitting Information

✓ Complete a Fence Permit Application and submit the application and fee to the Building and Planning Department at Township Hall.

✓ The zoning permit application requires a site plan. A printout from the Ottawa County property mapping system may be used as the basis of the drawing.

Refer to the definitions, Section 313 and 324 of the Zoning Ordinance for complete information. Because Zoning Ordinances are subject to amendments which can change standards and regulations, please speak with the Zoning Administrator to confirm zoning language.

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