

2011-1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE  
“CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968”  
CONCERNING TOWING AND  
STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Princeton as follows:

1. Section 11A-3 of the “Code of the Township of Princeton, New Jersey, 1968” (hereinafter “the Code”), which sets forth the definitions for the towing ordinance, is hereby amended to include the following definitions in alphabetical order:

*Basic towing service* shall mean towing as defined in N.J.S.A. 56:13-9 and other ancillary services as may be specified by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs by regulation, as may be amended from time to time.

*Decoupling* shall mean the release of a motor vehicle to its owner or operator when the motor vehicle has been, or is about to be, hooked to or lifted by a tow truck but prior to the motor vehicle actually having been moved or removed from the property.

*Secure storage facility* shall mean a storage facility that is either completely indoors or is surrounded by a fence, wall or other man-made barrier that is at least six feet in height and is lighted from dusk to dawn.

*Service fee* shall mean the fee charged by a tower for the performance of such services as a motor vehicle jump start, out of fuel, change tire, or motor vehicle lockout. The term *service fee* does not include any fees for parts or fuel, which shall be charged separately, and is only applicable in circumstances where no tow is being performed.

*Site clean-up* shall mean the use of absorbents to soak up any liquids from a motor vehicle at the site from which the motor vehicle will be towed.

*Winching* shall mean the process of moving a motor vehicle by the use of chains, nylon slings or additional lengths of winch cable from a position that is not accessible for direct hook up for towing of the motor vehicle. The term *winching* shall also include recovering a motor vehicle that is not on the road and righting a motor vehicle that is on its side or upside down, but does not include pulling a motor vehicle onto a flat bed tow truck.

2. Chapter 11A of the Code is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a new section, 11A-4.1, to read as follows:

Sec. 11A-4.1 Availability of Records.

Copies of this chapter and the fee schedules of licensed towers are available to the public on the Township website and during normal business hours at the Office of the Township Clerk.

3. Section 11A-13 of the Code, which addresses fees for services not included in towing or storage, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11A-13 Services not including towing or storage.

The fee to be charged to an owner or operator of a motor vehicle when services rendered do not include basic towing or storage, or are not otherwise set forth in this chapter, shall be a matter to be determined by the licensed tower and the owner or operator; provided, however, that such fees shall be reasonable.

4. Section 11A-20 of the Code, which requires towers to maintain records for a period of one year, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11A-20 Record keeping requirements.

All licensees shall maintain for a period of three years, written or computerized records of all vehicles towed, stored and released, and of all services rendered.

- 5. Section 11A-23 of the Code, which establishes the requirements for storage facilities, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11A-23 Storage facility requirements.

All vehicles towed must be removed to an approved, secure storage facility unless the owner or operator of the vehicle specifically requests that it be towed to another place, provided a police officer at the scene does not direct otherwise. All storage facilities shall have a business office open to the public between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. at least five days a week, excluding State holidays, and shall provide reasonable accommodations for the after-hours release of stored vehicles.

- 6. Section 11A-24 of the Code, which establishes the fees for basic towing services when the request is initiated by the Township Police, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Sec. 11A-24 Schedule of fees for towing and other services when the request is initiated by the township police.

(a) The following fees are established for towing and other services rendered for motor vehicles when the request is initiated by the township police:

<b>Service – Day, Nights Weekends and Holidays</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Basic Towing (vehicles up to three-quarter ton).....	\$140.00
Heavy-Duty Towing (vehicles over three-quarter ton).....	\$300.00

Decoupling.....	\$75.00
Service fee.....	\$75.00
Site clean-up.....	\$25.00 per hour, plus cost of absorbent
Winching.....	\$100.00

(b) In the event that additional services are performed other than those enumerated in this section (including tows involving unusual or unforeseen circumstances), the fees for additional services shall be determined by mutual agreement of the tower and the vehicle owner, operator or insurer, provided that such fees shall not exceed reasonable and customary rates for the same services in the Mercer County/Somerset County/Middlesex County area.

7. Section 11A-25 of the Code, which establishes the storage fees for motor vehicles, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Sec. 11A-25 Schedule of fees for storage services for motor vehicles

The following fees for each twenty-four hour period for storage services of motor vehicles are hereby established:

<b>Storage – Days, Nights Weekends and Holidays</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Outdoor secure storage facility	
Vehicles up to three-quarter ton.....	\$25.00 per day
Vehicles over three-quarter ton <i>(i.e., trucks, tractors and trailers)</i> .....	\$2.00 per running foot, per day
Indoor secure storage facility	
Vehicles up to three-quarter ton.....	\$50.00 per day
Vehicles over three-quarter ton <i>(i.e., trucks, tractors and trailers)</i> .....	\$4.00 per running foot, per day

All storage facilities to be paid by the township shall be governed by N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.50, as the same may be amended from time to time.

8. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as provided for by law.

I, Kathleen K. Brzezynski, Deputy Clerk of the Township of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an ordinance adopted by Township Committee at its meeting held January 24, 2011.



Kathleen K. Brzezynski  
Deputy Clerk

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