



## St. Joseph County Department of Health

*“Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury, and disability for all St. Joseph County residents”*

**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### WELL DRILLER ANNUAL TESTING WAIVER

The Department of Health is waiving the annual testing requirements for previously licensed well drillers in good standing upon the receipt of this form from the driller. Please read and initial each statement made below, sign the form, and return it to the Department of Health prior to registration.

\_\_\_\_\_ St. Joseph County has an abundance of high-quality groundwater, but many areas have become contaminated by septic systems. Properly grouting a well and properly abandoning a well are the two most important actions a well driller can take to protect the quality of our groundwater.

\_\_\_\_\_ Drilling a well in a groundwater administrative control area (ACA) requires a waiver by the Department of Health, which may or may not be granted. I am familiar with the locations of the ACAs.

\_\_\_\_\_ County Code 52 requires the approval of the municipality to drill a well in an incorporated area. This approval is rarely granted. The Department of Health will apply for the approval.

\_\_\_\_\_ Drilling a well outside of an incorporated area where a municipal water line is on the same side of the road is prohibited by County Code 52 unless the Department of Health finds cause to waive the requirement.

\_\_\_\_\_ A permit must be obtained to drill any type of well including but not limited to potable wells, monitoring wells, irrigation wells, waterscape wells, and dewatering wells. The only exception is temporary wells used to collect hydrogeologic or engineering data that are abandoned within 30 days or emergency conditions to protect public health, livestock, or property. A residence or commercial property that is out of water is not, by itself, an emergency condition.

\_\_\_\_\_ The penalties for failure to comply with County Code 52 are \$500 for the first offense, \$1,000 for the second offense, and \$1,500 for the third offense. Each day of a violation is a separate offense.

\_\_\_\_\_ Drilling a well without a permit will result in a significant penalty and a suspension of your license.

\_\_\_\_\_ 24 hours is required before any water usage after super chlorination of new wells.

\_\_\_\_\_ Home loan underwriters are becoming very strict about ensuring there is at least a 50-foot separation distance between the well and the septic tank and distribution field. Home loans have been rejected for a separation distance of 48 feet. Well Drillers are liable for replacing the well if they fail to do their due diligence to ensure this separation distance is achieved.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Department of Health is more than willing to work through special issues with well drillers. They should contact Mark Espich, Environmental Health Director, at 574-235-9750 ext. 7930.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Licensed Well Driller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Licensed Well Driller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor Name