

PERMIT PROCESS FOR GATHERINGS OF 2,500 OR MORE

A Mass Gathering is defined under Chapter 751 of the Texas Health and Safety Code as an event that can be defined by the following three (3) conditions:

(1) A gathering that is held outside the limits of a municipality

AND

(2) A gathering that attracts or is expected to attract more than 2,500 persons; or more than 500 persons, if 51 percent (51%) or more of those persons may be reasonably expected to be younger than 21 years of age and it is planned or may be reasonably expected that alcoholic beverages will be sold, served, or consumed at or around the gathering

AND

(3) A gathering where participants will remain for more than five (5) continuous hours; or for any amount of time beginning at 10:00 p.m. ending at 4:00 a.m.

An application from the coordinator, manager, organizer or promoter of such an event must be received in to the County Judge's office not less than 45 days before the event. The application is available online at www.co.palo-pinto.tx.us on the County Judge's page. An application may be obtained by request from the County Judge's office at (940) 659-1253 during normal business hours. There is a \$300.00 fee (nonrefundable) due at the time of filing of this application payable to Palo Pinto County. A minimum fee of \$250.00 for health inspection and a minimum fee of \$250.00 for fire marshal inspection is also due at the time of filing of the application. Additional cost deposit may be required for law enforcement at the time a permit is considered.

A public hearing will be conducted no later than ten (10) days before the event. A person may not promote a mass gathering without a permit issued by the County Judge, pursuant to Section 751.003 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 751.003. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, confinement in the county jail for not more than 90 days, or both. The County Judge's office will coordinate the hearing date and time with all affected parties. The hearing will be posted as a public meeting.

Representatives from the county health officer, fire marshal, Texas Department of Public Safety and the Sheriff's office will attend the hearing to ensure that the minimum standards in health and sanitation, fire safety and public safety and order are maintained at the gathering as prescribed by state and local laws, rules and orders.

Following the public hearing, the County Judge will grant or deny the permit as authorized by Section 751.007 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. A copy of the applicable sections of the statute may be found on the website for Palo Pinto County.