

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Building and Development Services Department Code Enforcement Division

Manatee County  
Code Enforcement's Guide to

# Criminal Nuisance

## Manatee County's Nuisance Abatement Program

### How often does the Nuisance Abatement Board meet?

The Nuisance Abatement Board is a public committee that meets on the second Monday of each month (or as needed) at 1:30 p.m. in the first floor Commission Chambers of the Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton.

### Can the public attend a Nuisance Abatement Board hearing?

Yes, the meetings are publicly noticed and anyone may attend a Nuisance Abatement Board hearing.

### Who makes up the Nuisance Abatement Board? Are Board members appointed or elected?

Manatee County residents serve two-year terms on the board. Manatee County residents may apply for vacancies on the Board. Manatee County Commissioners then select qualified applicants to serve.

### Should I call the Manatee Sheriff's Office or Code Enforcement to report a nuisance complaint?

Either one works. If you'd prefer to call the Manatee County Code Enforcement, call at **(941) 748-2071**. The non-emergency number to reach the Sheriff's Office to report a criminal nuisance is **(941) 747-3011**.

### What constitutes a recurring criminal nuisance?

If you've seen one or more criminal activities such as gang or drug activity, prostitution or property being stolen at the same property within a six month period, it's considered a public nuisance and punishable by Manatee County's Criminal Nuisance ordinance.

1112 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton FL 34205  
Phone: (941) 748-2071  
[www.mymanatee.org/codeenforcement](http://www.mymanatee.org/codeenforcement)



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## Criminal Nuisance Abatement

Manatee County's Nuisance Abatement program aims to promote, protect and improve safety in Manatee County neighborhoods. The program works with the Nuisance Abatement Board, a citizen review board that can impose fines and other non-criminal penalties against someone who has pending or repeated violations of criminal nuisances.

Criminal Nuisance is a location that has been used for:

- ❑ **Prostitution** more than twice within six months;
- ❑ **Gang-related activities** by a gang to conduct criminal activity at any time;
- ❑ Dealing **stolen property** more than twice within six months;
- ❑ **Drug sales**, delivery, manufacture or cultivation more than twice within six months;
- ❑ **Drug possession** (on one occasion as the site of the unlawful possession of a controlled substance where such possession constitutes a felony and that has been previously used on more than one occasion as the site of the unlawful sale, delivery, manufacture or cultivation of any controlled substance.)

## Help us help you!

If you think criminal nuisance activity may be occurring in your neighborhood, please call the **Manatee County Sheriff's Office** non-emergency number **(941) 747-3011**. You can remain anonymous. Always call **911** in an emergency.

You can also call

### **Manatee County Code Enforcement Officer Tom Wooten**

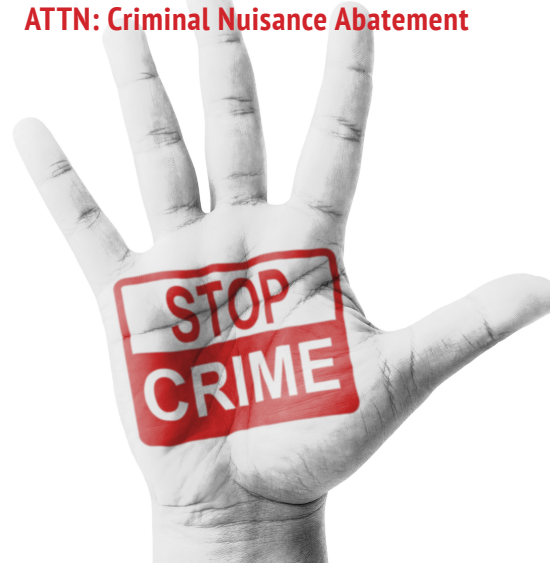
Office : **(941) 748-2071**

Phone: **(941) 737-2726**

E-mail: **tom.wooten@mymanatee.org**

You can also send complaints via U.S. mail to:  
1112 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida 34205

**ATTN: Criminal Nuisance Abatement**



## How the Nuisance Abatement Division works:

### The four-step process

#### ❑ Determine the criminal nuisance

After receiving complaints from neighbors or noting suspicious behavior while on patrol, Manatee County Code Enforcement works with the Sheriff's Office to determine whether a property has been the site of criminal nuisance activities.

#### ❑ Notify the property owner

If a property has been used for criminal activity the Sheriff's Office sends a notice to the property owner informing the owner of such activity and the consequences if the activity continues. If the activity continues or is repeated at the same place or nearby premises, you may file a complaint with the County.

#### ❑ Monitors activity

If the criminal activities continue Manatee County Code Enforcement officers will issue a Notice of Hearing to the property owner requiring him or her to appear in a public meeting of the Nuisance Abatement Board.

#### ❑ Nuisance Abatement Board

If a property owner fails to correct the problem, the case will be presented at a hearing before the Manatee County Criminal Nuisance Abatement Board. The Board can then impose fines on the property owner.

### Code Enforcement Office

1112 Manatee Avenue West Bradenton, FL 34205

Phone: (941) 748-2071

Fax: (941) 749-3094

MyManatee.org/CodeEnforcement