

McLean County Health Department Policy Regarding Verification of Legal Private Sewage Disposal Systems

The construction of a home addition, deck, patio, swimming pool, shed, barn or other structure may damage an existing private sewage disposal system. Additionally, for some properties, such construction may eliminate vital yard areas needed for repair or replacement of the private sewage disposal system in the future.

A citizen planning any construction on their property will be directed by the McLean County Building and Zoning Department to the McLean County Health Department for approval of their sewage disposal system before the Zoning Department approves a building permit.

The Health Department will follow these steps to determine the impact of the proposed construction on the private sewage disposal system serving the property.

1. The existing private sewage system records will be checked to determine if there is a record of a legal sewage disposal system located on the property.
 - a. If a record is found, a review will be made to determine if the proposed construction will interfere or potentially damage the existing sewage disposal system, or eliminate the area needed for a future replacement system.
 - b. If there is the potential that the construction could jeopardize the integrity of the private sewage disposal system, the applicant will be instructed how to safeguard the sewage disposal system from the effects of the construction project.
 - c. If there is no obvious conflict between the sewage disposal system and the proposed construction, and there will be sufficient room remaining for a future replacement sewage disposal system, the Health Department will notify the Building and Zoning Department that it does not object to the proposed construction.
2. If no record can be found for the private sewage disposal system for the property, the following steps will take place:
 - a. The applicant will be instructed that the sewage disposal system must be located and a written confirmation detailing the size and location of the system must be submitted to the Health Department. The information must be submitted on a form that will be provided by the Health Department.
 - b. A list of licensed private sewage system installers who can locate and verify the system will be given to the applicant for their use. The applicant will also be informed that if the applicant can locate the system and expose the septic tank and the secondary treatment system, Health Department staff will visit the property and inspect and verify the location and dimensions of the system. However, in most cases it is better to hire a McLean County licensed installer because they will be able to do the evaluation quicker and more efficiently.
 - c. If the investigation, whether by a licensed installer or the property owner, reveals that the sewage disposal is classified as a legal sewage disposal system the Health Department will notify the Building and Zoning Department that it does not object to the proposed construction.
 - d. If the investigation reveals that the sewage disposal is classified as an illegal and insanitary condition as defined by Chapter 28, Health and Sanitation in the McLean County Revised Code, a legal sewage disposal system will be required to be installed. The construction proposal will not be approved until the Health Department receives and approves an application for a legal private sewage disposal system.