

D. Conduct of the hearing:

- (1) The hearing shall be conducted by the hearing officer. 1172788
- (2) Formal rules of evidence shall not apply to the conduct of the hearing.
- (3) Cross-questioning is neither prohibited nor encouraged. The hearing officer has full discretion whether to allow it.
- (4) The hearing officer may hear testimony from any expert witness.
- (5) After calling the meeting to order, the hearing officer shall outline the procedure to be followed in the conduct of the hearing.
- (6) The hearing may be recessed or adjourned to another time and/or place upon the discretion of the hearing officer.

E. The decision of the hearing officer is the final step in the administrative procedures and is conclusive upon the applicant, permit holder or alarm user. Once an applicant, permit holder or alarm user receives the decision of the hearing officer, they shall be considered to have exhausted all administrative remedies available under this ordinance.

Section 13. APPLICABILITY OF ORDINANCE

The Manager shall adopt such rules and regulations as necessary for the safe and equitable administration of this ordinance. The issuance of an alarm user permit does not constitute a waiver of any requirement or provision contained in any ordinance of the County, or contained in any law or regulation of the State of New Mexico, or contained within federal law.

Section 14. PENALTY CLAUSE

Every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or by imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days or both by such fine and imprisonment. Every day such violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder.

Section 15. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 1996, and after its passage by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County.

Section 16. SAVINGS CLAUSE

If any of the sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases of this ordinance are for any