



**ADAMS COUNTY**  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

*Your Health. Our Mission.*

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# **REGULATION NO. M-23**

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## **Adams County Health Department Rules and Regulations Regarding Methamphetamine-Affected Properties in Adams County**

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF  
ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON**

**Effective June 15, 2023**

**Pursuant to Title §25 18.5 101, et seq. and §25-1-508  
Colorado Revised Statutes**

**ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**REGULATION M-23**  
**REGARDING METHAMPHETAMINE-AFFECTED PROPERTIES IN ADAMS**  
**COUNTY**

Adopted by the Board of Health of the Adams County Health Department on June 15,  
2023. Effective June 15, 2023.

**Section 1. Purpose**

This Regulation M-23 is intended to supplement C.R.S. §25 18.5 101, et seq. (the Act) and 6 CCR 1014-3 (State Regulations) regarding Adams County Health Department's roles as a Governing Body; the roles of other Governing Bodies, including Building Departments and law enforcement; the roles of third parties; and the responsibilities of Property Owners; regarding Property in unincorporated and incorporated Adams County with suspected or known Contamination.

**Section 2. Definitions**

Capitalized terms used, but not otherwise defined, in this Regulation M-23 shall have the same meaning as those terms are defined in C.R.S. §25-18.5-101, relating to Illegal Drug Laboratories, and 6 CCR 1014-3, relating to Cleanup of Methamphetamine-affected Property. For the purpose of this Regulation M-23, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- 2.1. "ACHD" shall mean the Adams County Health Department, including all of its authorized agents and employees.
- 2.2. "ACHD Compliance Statement" shall mean an official document prepared by ACHD that certifies that the Property Owner has complied with the Act, the State Regulations and this Regulation M-23; obtained all required reports, certificates, and assessments, including a Certificate of Compliance from a Consultant, and provided copies of such reports, certificates, and assessments to ACHD; and that all applicable fees have been paid.
- 2.3. "ACHD's Jurisdiction" shall mean Adams County, Colorado, including all of the cities and local jurisdictions contained therein.
- 2.4. "ACHD Notice of Contamination" shall mean a notification letter sent by ACHD to a Property Owner stating that a Property is suspected of being Contaminated or has known Contamination based on an Initial Observation.
- 2.5. "Act" shall mean the Illegal Drug Laboratory Act, C.R.S. §25-18.5-101, et. seq.
- 2.6. "Board of Health" shall mean the Board of Health of the Adams County Health Department.

- 2.7. **“Building Department”** shall mean Building Departments located within ACHD’s Jurisdiction, and, where applicable, shall mean the Building Department with jurisdiction over a Property with suspected or known Contamination.
- 2.8. **“CDPHE”** shall mean the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- 2.9. **“Closure Placard”** shall mean a sign posted on a Property, or any portion thereof, by the Governing Body, including the Building Department, having jurisdiction over the Property, and which indicates that no person may lawfully occupy or use the property, except for people trained or certified to handle Contaminated Property under State Board of Health rules or federal law.
- 2.10. **“Governing Body”** shall mean the agency or office designated by the city council or board of county commissioners where the Property in question is located. If there is no such designation, the governing body shall be the county, district, or municipal public health agency, building department, and law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the Property. ACHD, as Adams County’s public health agency, is a Governing Body.
- 2.11. **“Initial Observation”** shall mean a determination by law enforcement, Building Department, Consultant, or third party, through observation or testing, that a Property has suspected or known Contamination. Any sampling or testing that indicates Property Contamination within ACHD’s Jurisdiction, including testing performed pursuant to the provisions of C.R.S. §38-35.7-103, shall be deemed an Initial Observation, and the individual who performed such sampling or testing shall notify ACHD in writing within 20 days of the receipt of such results.
- 2.12. **“Notice of Contamination”** A Property Owner is notified of Contamination if they receive an ACHD Notice of Contamination, notification from a peace officer that chemicals, equipment, or supplies of an Illegal Drug Laboratory are located on a Property, or when an Illegal Drug Laboratory is otherwise discovered and the Property Owner has received notice.
- 2.13. **“State Board of Health”** means the state board of health in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).
- 2.14. **“State Regulations”** shall mean the Clean-up of Methamphetamine-Affected Properties, 6 CCR 1014-3, adopted by the State Board of Health.

### **Section 3. Authority**

- 3.1. All aspects of the Screening Level Assessment, Preliminary Assessment, Decontamination and Removal, Sampling, Cleanup Standards, Post Decontamination Reporting, and training and certification shall be governed by regulations adopted pursuant to C.R.S. §25-18.5-101 et seq. (the Act), by the State Board of Health in 6 CCR 1014-3 (State Regulations).

- 3.2. Pursuant to C.R.S. §25-18.5-105 and C.R.S. §25-1-508, the Board of Health is authorized and empowered to enact ordinances or resolutions and to adopt orders and rules for the Decontamination of Methamphetamine-affected Properties.
- 3.3. This Regulation M-23 does not supersede the regulatory authority of other local, State or Federal agencies which may also have jurisdiction over Subject Property.
- 3.4. A city council or board of county commissioners may designate an agency or office, other than ACHD, or in addition to ACHD, as a “Governing Body” as provided in C.R.S. §25-18.5-101.

#### **Section 4. Powers and Duties**

ACHD shall have the power and authority to:

- 4.1. Make appropriate investigations, inspections, reviews and evaluations of Property located within Adams County with suspected or known Contamination.
- 4.2. Prevent unauthorized entry into Property with suspected or known Contamination.
- 4.3. Issue notices regarding Property with suspected or known Contamination.
- 4.4. Oversee Assessment, Decontamination, and Sampling of Property with suspected or known Contamination.
- 4.5. Issue Compliance Statements to Property Owners and Building Departments regarding the successful Decontamination or demolition of Methamphetamine-affected Property.
- 4.6. Charge reasonable fees as approved by the Board of Health for the services provided by ACHD in accordance with the Act, State Regulations, and this Regulation M-23.
- 4.7. Establish additional procedures for Property with suspected or known Contamination not inconsistent with the Act or State Regulations.
- 4.8. Declare an Illegal Drug Laboratory that has not met Cleanup Standards, a public health nuisance.
- 4.9. Enforce the Act, State Regulations, and this Regulation M-23.
- 4.10. As described in more detail below, collaborate with law enforcement, Building Departments, CDPHE, Contractors, and other third parties with jurisdiction over Property with suspected or known Contamination to carry out any of the foregoing powers and duties.

#### **Section 5. Methamphetamine Contamination**

- 5.1. A Contaminated Property is a public health nuisance until it has been demolished or Decontaminated to the Cleanup Standards.

- 5.2. A Property Owner may be required by a Building Department to Decontaminate a Property and/or obtain an ACHD Statement of Compliance in order to remove a Closure Placard or an encumbrance to the title of the Property.
- 5.3. Unless the Property Owner elects to demolish Property in lieu of Assessment and Decontamination, a Property Owner must obtain a Preliminary Assessment Report and a Post-Decontamination Report as required by the State Regulations, signed by a certified Consultant, and furnish copies of such Reports to ACHD in order to obtain an ACHD Compliance Statement.
- 5.4. **In order to obtain immunity for future alleged health-based civil actions as described in C.R.S. §25-18.5-103(2), a Property Owner must furnish copies of their Preliminary Assessment Report and a Post-Decontamination Report, signed by a certified Consultant, to ACHD.**
- 5.5. The removal of Illegal Drug Laboratory equipment and chemicals by law enforcement, or other law enforcement decontamination activities or processing of Property with suspected or known Contamination does not constitute Decontamination.

## **Section 6. Notice**

### **6.1. Property Owner Notification of Contamination**

- 6.1.1. Upon notification of an Initial Observation that reveals suspected or known Contamination of a Property, ACHD shall send an ACHD Notice of Contamination to the last known Property Owner within 10 days of receipt of such notice.
- 6.1.2. The ACHD Notice of Contamination will state that the Property has suspected or known Contamination based on an Initial Observation and will require the Property Owner to comply with this Regulation M-23, the State Regulations and the Act. The ACHD Notice of Contamination will also describe the Decontamination procedure for a Contaminated Property.
- 6.1.3. A Property Owner is notified of Contamination if they receive an ACHD Notice of Contamination; a notification from a peace officer that chemicals, equipment, or supplies of an Illegal Drug Laboratory are located on a Property; or when an Illegal Drug Laboratory is otherwise discovered and the Property Owner has received notice.
- 6.1.4. In the event ACHD is notified of a Property with suspected or known Contamination by a Property Owner or third party, ACHD may then notify the applicable law enforcement and Building Department of such fact.

### **6.2. Notice to ACHD**

- 6.2.1. Law enforcement, Building Departments, and any person who knows, or reasonably suspects, that a Property is Contaminated are encouraged to report such suspected or known Contamination to ACHD.

**6.2.2.** Any sampling or testing that indicates Property Contamination within ACHD's Jurisdiction, including testing performed pursuant to the provisions of C.R.S. §38-35.7-103, must be reported by the individual who performed such sampling or testing to ACHD in writing within 30 days of the receipt of such results to Adams County Health Department, Environmental Health, by mail to 7190 Colorado Blvd Suite 200, Commerce City, CO 80022 or by email to IndustrialHygiene@adcogov.org.

**6.3. Notice of Contamination to Personal Property Owners**

It shall be the responsibility of the Property Owner to notify owners of Personal Property that has been Contaminated. However, nothing shall prohibit ACHD from providing notice of Contamination of Personal Property.

**6.4. Notice to Vehicle Owner**

If ACHD is notified of a vehicle with suspected or known Contamination, ACHD may, at its discretion, notify the registered owner or owners of said vehicle.

**6.5. Notice to Third Parties**

ACHD may, at its discretion, notify affected third parties of a Property with suspected or known Contamination, including, but not limited to, the general public, homeowners associations and property managers.

**6.6. Other Notices as Required by State and Federal Law**

Additional notices and reporting may be required by the Act, State Regulations, and/or other local, state, and federal law and nothing in this Regulation M-23 shall eliminate any such requirements. Property Owners, Consultants, and all other relevant parties must be familiar and comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws.

**Section 7. Property Closure**

ACHD, law enforcement, Building Departments or other Governing Bodies may take steps to prevent unauthorized entry into Property with suspected or known Contamination. These steps may include, but are not limited to:

- 7.1. The placement of a Closure Placard on Property.
- 7.2. The encumbrance of title, condemnation, or the revocation of a Certificate of Occupancy.
- 7.3. Ordering the closure of Property.
- 7.4. The installation of physical barriers to prevent entry to Property.
- 7.5. Requiring a Property Owner to fence off the Property or otherwise make it inaccessible for occupancy or intrusion.

## **Section 8. Property Owner Duties Upon Notice of Contamination**

- 8.1.** If a Property has been determined to be Contaminated or if a Property Owner receives Notice of Contamination, the Property Owner shall not permit any person to have access to the Property unless:
  - 8.1.1.** The person is trained or certified to handle Contaminated Property under the Act, State Regulations, or federal law; or
  - 8.1.2.** The Property Owner has obtained a Post-Decontamination Report, that includes a Certificate of Compliance signed by a certified Consultant, and furnished copies of such Report to ACHD.
- 8.2.** Demolition of Property in Lieu of Decontamination
  - 8.2.1.** A Property Owner may elect to demolish a Contaminated Property in lieu of meeting Cleanup Standards.
  - 8.2.2.** Any such demolition must comply with the requirements of the Act and State Regulations as well as all applicable federal, state, and local law, including planning, land use and development.
  - 8.2.3.** ACHD may provide technical expertise regarding the disposal of Contaminated Personal Property and demolition debris upon request by a Property Owner, Consultant or a Building Department.

## **Section 9. ACHD Statement of Compliance**

- 9.1.** A Property Owner of a Property with suspected or known Contamination may request an ACHD Statement of Compliance, verifying compliance with the Act, State Regulations, and this Regulation M-23:
  - 9.1.1.** If a Screening Level Assessment or Preliminary Assessment determines that a Property is not Contaminated.
  - 9.1.2.** Upon receipt of a Post-Decontamination Report, that includes a Certificate of Compliance signed by a certified Consultant, and once a copy of such Report and all other required or requested documentation are provided to ACHD.
  - 9.1.3.** Upon demolishing a Contaminated Property in lieu of Decontamination, and once copies of all required and/or requested documentation are provided to ACHD, including documentation that the demolished Property was properly disposed of.
- 9.2.** ACHD may, at its discretion, inspect the Property and/or require additional testing or sampling prior to issuing an ACHD Statement of Compliance. Additional sampling or testing may also be required before a Closure Placard or title encumbrance is removed from the Property.

- 9.3. If ACHD determines that a Property has been Decontaminated or demolished in accordance with the Act, the State Regulations and this Regulation M-23, and that all applicable fees have been paid and all applicable documentation has been submitted, ACHD shall issue an ACHD Statement of Compliance upon request to the Property Owner, Building Department, and any applicable law enforcement.
- 9.4. Additional copies of the ACHD Statement of Compliance may be requested for the applicable fee set forth in the Fee Schedule.
- 9.5. ACHD shall not issue an ACHD Statement of Compliance if:
- 9.5.1. the Property has not been Decontaminated in accordance with this Regulation M-23 and the requirements of the State Regulations,
  - 9.5.2. if the results of any testing or sampling show Methamphetamine Contamination in excess of the Contaminant Criteria set forth in the State Regulations, or
  - 9.5.3. if the applicable fees have not been paid.
- 9.6. If ACHD determines that a Property does not comply with the requirements of the Act, State Regulations, or this Regulation M-23, ACHD may require additional Decontamination and a new Post-Decontamination Report.
- 9.7. It is the intention of ACHD that every Methamphetamine-affected Property be Decontaminated or demolished in accordance with the Act, the State Regulations, and this Regulation M-23 and ACHD shall work with each Property Owner and any relevant third parties to achieve that end.

## **Section 10. Fees and Costs**

The Board of Health has promulgated a Fee Schedule For Environmental Health Services, which sets forth the applicable fee for the regulatory oversight services provided by ACHD. The Fee Schedule For Environmental Health Services may be amended from time to time by the Board of Health. The Fee Schedule can be found on the ACHD website at:

<https://adamscountyhealthdepartment.org/environmental-health>.