



## Planning Commission Memorandum

**To:** Planning Commission  
**From:** John Hinzman, Community Development Director  
**Date:** November 8, 2021  
**Item:** City Code Amendment - Definition of Family

### Planning Commission Action Requested

Hold a public hearing and consider an amendment to City Code Chapter 155.02 - Zoning Code Definitions modifying the definition of "Family".

### Proposed Amendment

**FAMILY.** ~~A group of individuals living under 1 roof.~~ An individual, or two (2) or more persons related by blood, marriage, guardianship, adoption; or a group of not more than four (4) persons not so related, living together as a single housekeeping unit using common household, common cooking, and kitchen facilities.

### Rationale for Amendment

The current definition allows an unlimited number of individuals to reside in any residential unit. The City has seen an increased number of requests to rent out individual rooms that increase the activity and vehicles that is beyond what is normally expected within residential neighborhoods. Staff's intent for the change is not to over-regulate the changing nature of what constitutes a family, but to limit the number of unrelated individuals living within a single unit.

Staff worked with the City Attorney to review the definition of family in surrounding communities. Definitions share a common theme of limiting the number of individuals within a residential unit that are not related by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, foster care, guardianship, adoption, civil unions, etc. (generally termed "unrelated individuals"). The number of unrelated individuals within a unit generally varies from 3-5 people.

### Planning Committee of City Council Review

On September 8, 2021, the Planning Committee of City Council (Chair Folch, Leifeld, and Vaughan) reviewed the issue and supported consideration of a change to the code.

### Attachments

- Draft Ordinance Amendment

**Planning Commission Review - November 8, 2021**

**CITY OF HASTINGS, MINNESOTA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-\_\_\_**

**An Ordinance of the City of Hastings amending City Code Section 155.02 - Zoning Code -  
Definition of Family**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HASTINGS:**

**SECTION 1.** Hastings City Code Section 155.02 - Zoning Code - Definitions is hereby amended as follows (~~striketrough language is deleted~~):

***FAMILY.*** ~~A group of individuals living under 1 roof.~~ An individual, or two (2) or more persons related by blood, marriage, guardianship, adoption; or a group of not more than four (4) persons not so related, living together as a single housekeeping unit using common household, common cooking, and kitchen facilities.

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall be effective upon seven (7) days after its passage and publication.

Adopted by the Hastings City Council on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

**CITY OF HASTINGS**

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Mary Fasbender, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kelly Murtaugh  
City Clerk

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Ordinance presented to and adopted by the City of Hastings, County of Dakota, Minnesota, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021, as disclosed by the records of the City of Hastings on file and of record in the office.

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Kelly Murtaugh  
City Clerk