

COMMISSION POLICY 25-02: Legal Notices and Advertisements

I. PURPOSE

On January 1, 2023, Chapter 50 of the Florida Statutes, Legal and Official Advertisements, provided that a governmental agency may publish certain statutorily required legal advertisements, publications, or notices on the publicly accessible website of the county in which it lies if doing so would cost less than publishing legal notices in a newspaper. The Marion County Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 25-43, amending the Marion County Code of Ordinances regarding Public Notices and Legal Advertisements on September 16, 2025.

II. POLICY

A. WEBSITE

Marion County's website is the designated publicly accessible website for publication of legal notices and advertisements. A link to advertisements and public notices published on the County's website shall be conspicuously placed on the County's homepage or on a page accessible through a direct link from the homepage.

B. ANNUAL NOTICE

At least once per year in a newspaper of general circulation, the County shall provide notice indicating that property owners and residents may receive legally required advertisements and public notices from the County by first-class mail or e-mail upon registering their name, address, or e-mail address with the County. A sample notice is attached as Exhibit A. The County shall maintain a registry of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of property owners and residents who have requested in writing that they receive legally required advertisements and public notices by first-class mail or e-mail.

C. MANNER OF PUBLICATION

All official advertisements and legal notices required by Florida Statutes and/or the Marion County Code of Ordinances shall be submitted to the Marion County Attorney's Office to be published on the County's publicly accessible website which meets the requirements of Sections 50.011 and 50.031, F.S., for publication of legal and official advertisements. Proof of publication shall be prepared by the Marion County Attorney's Office as required by Section 50.041, F.S. A sample Proof of Publication is attached as Exhibit B. Unless otherwise prescribed by law or directed by the Board, official advertisement or legal notice shall be published on the website, in lieu of newspaper publication.

D. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

Any governmental agency as defined by 50.0311(1), may use the County's website to publish legally required advertisements and public notices, upon execution of an Agency Compliance Acknowledgement Waiver, sample

attached as Exhibit C, which may be amended from time to time under the direction of the County Attorney. There will be no charge for any of the Constitutional Officers to use the website and if desired, any of the Constitutional Officers may post directly to the County's website. All other governmental agencies will be charged \$25.00 to cover the costs of County Staff for publication on the County's website. All governmental agencies are responsible for their own mailings should property owners or residents request to receive notices by first-class mail or e-mail.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Carl Zalak, III, Chairman

POLICY HISTORY
Created: 11/18/2025
Replaced:
Current: 11/18/2025