



## Cold Weather Rule November 1 thru March 31



### What does the Cold Weather Rule mean for me?

The Cold Weather Rule helps ensure you will have electric, gas, and water service for your home during the winter. You must make pay arrangements with your utility to use the Rule.

The Cold Weather Rule applies only to residential customers of electric, natural gas, and water utility companies under the KCC's jurisdiction.

### How do I sign up?

If you can't pay your entire bill, call your utility company to make pay arrangements:

- Agree to pay 1/12 of the overdue amount of your bill, plus 1/12 of your current bill, all disconnection and reconnection fees plus any applicable deposit owed to the utility, and agree to pay the remainder in equal payments over the next 11 months; or
- Negotiate a payment plan to pay the overdue amount off quicker than 12 months.

Remember, you must also pay your full bills for new service you use while paying off the overdue amount.

Apply for federal, state, local or special funds for which you are eligible.

If you are behind in a previous payment plan and cannot catch up, you need to make a new payment agreement with the utility.

If you have illegally used service, you must pay for the value of the illegally used service.

### What will the utility company do?

Utilities must inform you of the Cold Weather Rule payment plan as well as other available payment plans. Remember, under the Cold Weather Rule, you always have the option of spreading your payment over a total of 12 months.

Utilities must send written notice to customers 10 days before disconnection, plus attempt a phone call or personal contact the day before.

Utilities must tell customers about agencies that have funds to help pay utility bills.

### Can you be disconnected during the Cold Weather Rule?

A utility can't disconnect you when the temperature is forecasted to drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 48-hour period, except in certain circumstances.

To prevent disconnection when it is 35 degrees or above, or to be reconnected regardless of temperature, you must make pay arrangements with your utility.

A utility may start the final notification and disconnection process if there is a 48 hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

If the 48 hour forecast changes before the period ends and there is a forecast of below 35 degrees, the utility cannot disconnect until there is another Cold Weather Rule 48 hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

### Everyone benefits!

The Kansas Corporation Commission wants Kansans to have electric, gas, and water services needed to keep their homes warm during the winter. The KCC also recognizes the customer's responsibility to make arrangements to pay for that service. The Cold Weather Rule was designed in 1983 to ensure that both goals are met.

### Questions?

Call your utility company or the KCC at (800) 662-0027.

institution from the City. The customer will be responsible for all fees including reconnection fees, penalties and collection fee of \$30.00. Collection of checks will follow K.S.A. 60-2610. The City of Girard will only accept cash, certified check or money order from any customer having a returned check within any one-year period.

(Ord. 1173; Code 2018)

**15-109. Cold/hot weather rule.**

The City of Girard does not fall within the rules and regulations of the KCC. Therefore, weather, temperature or medical conditions have no bearing on disconnection of services due to nonpayment.

(Ord. 1173; Code 2018)

**15-110. Petty cash fund.**

A petty cash fund in the amount of \$500 is established for the use of the city utilities department, for the purpose of paying postage, freight, temporary labor and other expenses.

(Ord. 1173; Code 2018)

**15-111. Same; deposits.**

The petty cash fund shall be deposited in the regular depository bank of the city and paid out on the order of the city clerk by check which shall state clearly the purpose for which issued.

(Ord. 1173; Code 2018)

**15-112. Same; vouchers.**

Whenever the petty cash fund becomes low or depleted, the city clerk shall prepare vouchers covering expenses as have been paid from the petty cash fund and shall submit such vouchers together with the paid checks to the governing body for review and allowance of the amounts from the regular funds of the utilities. Warrants issued therefore shall be payable to the petty cash fund and shall be deposited therein to restore said petty cash fund to its original amount.

(Ord. 1173; Code 2018)