

BILL NO. 22-86

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI BY ENACTING A NEW SECTION 17-62. CHILD ABUSE., PROVIDING GENERALLY FOR THE CREATION OF THE OFFENSE OF CHILD ABUSE AND SPECIFYING THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION.

WHEREAS, child abuse is a serious public health problem that can have lasting harmful effects on the children involved. They may suffer immediate physical injuries as well as emotional and psychological problems, such as impaired social-emotional skills or anxiety. Everyone benefits when children have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. Perpetrators of child abuse must be held accountable so that real change can occur.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, as follows:

SECTION 1. That a new Sec. 17-62. Child Abuse." be enacted to read as follows:

'Sec. 17-62. – Child Abuse.

A. Definitions - The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

1. Abuse is any physical injury inflicted by an aggressor against a child other than by accidental means. Discipline, including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner shall not be construed as abuse.
2. Aggressor is the person whose conduct causes or tends to cause physical injury to a child.
3. Child is a person under the age of 18.
4. Physical injury means physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition, including but not limited to bruising, lacerations, hematomas, welts, or permanent or temporary disfigurement and impairment of any bodily function or organ;

B. A person commits the ordinance violation of abuse of a child if that person:

1. Attempts to cause physical injury to a child and such conduct is a substantial step toward the commission of the crime of attempting to cause physical injury and was done for the purpose of committing such assault; or
2. Intentionally causes physical injury to a child; or
3. Recklessly causes physical injury to a child.

C. Any person who pleads or is found guilty of violating the provisions of this section shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of section 1-13 or the Code.'

SECTION 2. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, adoption, and approval by the Mayor.

SECTION 3. Should any section, sentence, or clause of this Ordinance be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences or clauses.

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PASSED by the City Council of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Mayor *William A. Baird*

ATTEST:

City Clerk *Trisha Fowler Arcuri*

APPROVED by the Mayor of said city this ____ day of _____, 2022.

Mayor *William A. Baird*

ATTEST:

City Clerk *Trisha Fowler Arcuri*

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney *Brian W. Head*