

# Residential Fences & Walls

## All Zones



This is a summary of rules and regulations for Fencing on residential lots. It provides standard information but does not address all possible circumstances. For specific questions, contact Town Hall at (901) 867-2620.

### FENCES and WALLS

Residential fences and walls are barriers, railings, or other upright structures that enclose an area of ground to mark a boundary or to control access.

- **PERMIT:** Installation of any fence or wall requires a Fence Permit issued by Arlington. Retaining walls often require additional review by Shelby County.
- **HEIGHT:** Fence height is regulated by its location on a lot:
  - **Front Yard** – may not exceed 4 feet
  - **Side/Rear Yards** – may not exceed 8 feet (exceptions on corner lots)
  - **Secondary Front Yards** – all yards facing roads are Front Yards, such as on corner lots. A fence may exceed 4-feet (up to 8-feet) on a secondary front yard (yard without front entrance of house), if the fence is set back at least 15 feet from the edge of property.
  - **Varied Heights** – when a 6-foot and 8-foot fence join, the installer must slope the fence at least a distance of 8 feet to gradually change the height.



- **SETBACKS:** No setbacks are required for perimeter fencing, with 2 exceptions:
  - fencing may not block a clear sight triangle at intersections (Section 6.1)
  - fencing in secondary front yards must set back 15 feet if over 4-feet tall.
- **MATERIALS:**
  - Side and rear yard fences must be of customary fence materials, including wood, brick, stone, and wrought iron.
  - Front yard fences may be split rail, wood picket, and wrought iron to provide more visibility.
  - Prohibited fence materials include chain link, barbed wire, and concrete or cinderblock.
  - On fences fronting common open space, roads, or public areas, the finished side shall face said area.

### Other Considerations to Note

**Drainage:** Fences and walls must leave sufficient clearance for drainage to flow freely under them.

**Easements:** Fences and walls built in public easements are subject to removal at owner's expense.

**Retaining Walls:** Are subject to different regulations if over 4-feet tall, closer to property line than they are tall, or if they support a surcharge.

\* **NOTE:** Check your Homeowner's Association, if you have one, for any further restrictions specific to your property.