



St. Mary's County  
Department of Land Use & Growth Management  
**Customer Assistance Guide**

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## Sign Permits

Per Ordinance No. 2019-41

A permit is required for

- Permanent Sign - located on the premises for an unlimited period of time and designed to be permanently attached to a structure, wall, or the ground.
- Non-permanent sign which is movable, not permanently attached to the ground, a wall, a structure or other sign, designed or constructed in such a manner that it can be removed, moved or relocated without involving any structural or support changes.
  - **Ballfield-** a non-permanent banner sign attached to a fence erected around a recreation area or a fence erected around a field for amateur sports. The sign face of a ballfield banner sign is intended to be viewed by the spectators of this event.
  - **Balloon-** a non-permanent sign that is in an air-inflated object, which may be of various shaped, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Balloon signs are restrained, attached, or held in place by a cord, rope, cable or similar method. As distinguished from air activated sign.
  - **Banner-** A non-permanent sign made of plastic, cardboard, plywood, metal, canvas, fabric or similar lightweight material that can be mounted to a structure with cord, rope, cable, ties or a similar method. If a banner sign is supported by stakes poles or posts in the ground it is a yard sign.
  - **Digital**
  - **Portable** - a type of non-permanent, readily movable sign that is not attached to a structure or the ground, includes: A-Frame or T-Frame signs, portable reader boards, and similar signs. Signs must remain portable and cannot be attached to the ground, trees, light or utility poles, sign poles, parking meters, street furniture, etc.
  - **Yard-** a non-permanent sign placed on the ground or attached to a supporting structure, posts or poles. A yard sign is not attached to any building. Three-Dimensional, air-activated, and wind flag signs are not yard signs.
- A non-permanent sign permit is valid for 60 days.

The Sign Ordinance is available online

<http://www.co.saintmarys.md.us/docs/Sign%20Ordinance.pdf>

For additional information, contact (301) 475-4200, Ext. 71500

