



## VARIANCE INFORMATION

### WHAT IS A VARIANCE

A variance is a deviation from property development standards set forth by Benton County and an application for a variance must have sufficient basis to justify granting its approval in accordance with Benton County Code 11.52.088. Granting a variance is based on a hardship presented by applying the development standards to circumstances unique to the property which are not commonly found on surrounding properties. Variances are not granted due to hardships caused by personal circumstances.

### THE PROCESS

A Variance Permit normally involves having a pre-application meeting with County Planning Staff to discuss the application, answer questions, and resolve any issues at the front end of the process. Next, a completed Variance application is submitted to the Planning Division, which will be sent out for review to local and State agencies, as well as neighboring property owners within 300 feet of the subject property.

A notice of application will then be published in the local newspaper and a public hearing will be conducted at which time the application will be heard by the Benton County Hearings Examiner and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The Hearings Examiner will review all the information submitted during the review process and shall either approve, approve with conditions, or deny the conditional use permit.

### CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

A Variance Permit shall be granted only if it can be concluded that, as conditioned, that:

1. Granting of the proposed variance will not permit a use that is not classified as an allowable, accessory or conditional use in the zoning district wherein the use would be located;
2. Special circumstances such as lot size, slope, topography or necessary size or shape of the building prevent compliance with the applicable property development standards;
3. Due to special circumstances applicable to the subject property, strict application of the zoning district property development standards would deprive the subject property of rights and privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity and under the same zoning district classification;
4. The problem sought to be addressed by the variance is related to the physical features of the particular property or building and would exist regardless of the identity of the owner;
5. The problem sought to be addressed is not common for other property in the surrounding area;
6. The variance would not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the vicinity under the same zoning classification;
7. The variance will not adversely affect the health or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood in which the variance is being requested; and,
8. The variance would not deny the preservation and enjoyment of substantial property rights of those owning property in the vicinity.

### APPEALS

The decision by the Hearings Examiner is appealable under the terms and conditions as set forth in State law.

### EXPIRATION

The Variance Permit will be valid as long as the conditions set forth by the Hearings Examiner are met.



## VARIANCE PERMIT CHECKLIST

**Completed Variance Permit Application** – must include signatures of all parties with ownership interest. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

**Site Plan Map** – A detailed map drawn to scale showing the dimensions of the property, location and size of all existing and proposed structures, access to the site, adjacent roads, well, septic system, easements, and parking areas. No site plans larger than 11" x 17" will be accepted.

**\$800.00 Variance Permit Fee** – The fee must be paid at the time of application submittal, cash or checks accepted. Checks made payable to the **Benton County Treasurer**. All application fees are non-refundable.

Applications may be submitted between the hours of 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm Monday through Friday to the Planning Division at 102206 E Wiser Parkway, Kennewick, WA 99338.

Please contact the following departments/agencies to ensure your proposal will be in compliance with their regulations for the proposed use of the property:

- **Benton-Franklin Health District**  
7102 W. Okanogan Place, Kennewick, WA 99336  
Phone: 460-4205
- **Benton County Road Department**  
102206 E Wiser Parkway, Kennewick, WA 99338  
Prosser: 786-5611 • Tri-Cities: 735-3084
- **Benton County Building Division/ Fire Marshal**  
102206 E Wiser Parkway, Kennewick, WA 99338  
Phone: 735-3500

**Community Development Department**

102206 East Wisner Parkway  
Kennewick, WA 99338



**Planning Division**

(509) 786-5612

Planning.department@co.benton.wa.us

**VARIANCE APPLICATION**

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please check the box indicating primary contact person for this application

**Applicant/Agent:**

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Owner(s)** (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*If there are additional owners please copy this section, sign, and attach to the application*

**Land Surveyor:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**If the property is owned by a corporation, trust, partnership or LLC please complete the entity signature block below showing that the person signing has the authority to sign on behalf of the company.**

ENTITY SIGNATURE BLOCK

*If the applicant or legal owner of the property is a corporation, partnership, trust or LLC use the following signature block.*

**Applicant/Legal Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

Officer name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

THE ABOVE SIGNED OFFICER OF \_\_\_\_\_ (name of entity)

WARRANTS AND REPRESENTS THAT ALL NECESSARY LEGAL AND CORPORATE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN DULY UNDERTAKEN TO

PERMIT \_\_\_\_\_ (name of applicant) TO SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION AND THAT THE

ABOVE SIGNED OFFICER HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED AND INSTRUCTED TO EXECUTE THIS APPLICATION.

Any information submitted to the Benton County Planning Division is subject to public records disclosure law for the State of Washington (RCW Chapter 42.17) and all other applicable law that may require the release of the documents to the public.

PARCEL INFORMATION

1. **Subject property address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Parcel number:** \_\_ - \_\_ - \_\_ - \_\_ - \_\_ - \_\_ - \_\_ - \_\_ - \_\_ - \_\_ **Acres:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Access:**  County Road  State Road/Highway  Private Road

4. **Utilities:** *Power:*  Benton PUD  Benton REA

*Sewer:*  Septic Tank  City Sewer: (Provider) \_\_\_\_\_

*Water:*  Individual Wells  One well serving 2-4 lots  One well serving 5+ lots

Private System (Provider & Address) \_\_\_\_\_

City System (Provider) \_\_\_\_\_

*Gas:*  No  Yes: (Provider) \_\_\_\_\_

*Cable:*  No  Yes: (Provider) \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone:*  No  Yes: (Provider) \_\_\_\_\_

*Irrigation:*  No  Private  District: (Provider) \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Requested setback variance:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ft. from which boundary line?**  Front  Rear  Side

6. **Describe the requested variance:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Does the variance being requested border an easement?**  Yes  No  Unknown

8. **Has approval been obtained from the Benton-Franklin Health District?**  Yes  No  N/A

9. **Are there circumstances (*lot size/shape, topography, structure size*) that prevent compliance with required setbacks?**  Yes  No

a. *If yes*, describe the circumstances which exist on your property that justify deviation from the required setbacks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Are the circumstances above a result from actions of past/present property owner?

Yes  No *If yes*, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Are the circumstances creating the need for a variance/deviation unique to your property not experienced by other properties in the area?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you believe a variance is your only option to solve the problem or is there another reasonable way to accomplish your project that would not require a variance? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Describe how granting this variance will not be materially detrimental to the public health, safety, welfare, surrounding properties or improvements in the vicinity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Additional comments or information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)</b>	Access: Y      N	Application Complete: Y      N
	Critical Areas: N      Y: _____	Zoning: _____
	Reviewed by: _____	Date: _____

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