

## ADDRESS CHANGE – ROAD NAMING FAQ'S

Chapter 16 of the Oneida County Uniform Addressing Ordinance designates Land Information to administer the countywide addressing ordinance and to work with the Towns in the implementation. The purpose of the ordinance is: "To promote the orderly and logical identification of buildings and the naming of roads within the Towns of Oneida County and to facilitate the location of residences and businesses by emergency service providers, mail, delivery services, utilities, travelers and others dependent on addresses.

- **Why does my address need to change?** There are many reasons for a change of address, however the most common are: not enough numbers for existing or future buildings, too many buildings using the same primary number, too many buildings down a private drive/road, numbers out of sequence with other numbers, odd or even numbers on wrong side of the road, the Town or emergency service providers requesting a review of an area for sign placements, and other irregular situations.
- **Does the County realize the inconvenience to me for changing my address?** Yes, the County carefully considers address changes prior to doing so. The main reason is to make it easier for emergency service providers to locate your address should you need them at any time, and to create an accurate database for dispatching emergency help.
- **Who do I need to notify of my change of address?** While the County has a wide variety of different services on our notification list, you will want to contact each of the service providers of your property with the change as well. This should include companies such as insurance, power companies, propane delivery, satellite services, and internet providers. When making your list of providers to change, try to remember those items you pay quarterly or yearly. The County will change your property site address, and if needed your tax bill mailing address, which will update your septic pumping card notification and any other mailings produced from the county system.
- **How will the Post Office know to continue delivering my mail with the new address?** The County notifies several different vendors including the Post Office Address Management system. If you receive mail at this building, the Post Office will continue to deliver your mail to your old address for up to one year from the time of the change. You should begin making your address changes as quickly as possible so you do not experience an interruption of service.
- **What will it cost to change the address on my driver's license?** If you bring along a copy of the change letter issued by the County when making the change, there is no charge.
- **What happens to my voter registration address?** The County Clerk is notified of all address changes, and enters the information into the voter registration system. The Towns have access to the updated poll information. You still need to bring a photo ID when voting.
- **What happens to my passport?** According to [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) you do not need to update your current passport with your new address.
- **Do I need to contact my telephone service provider?** Yes, even though the County notifies the landline Telephone Service Central Database management, they will not make the change in their system until you as the landowner, or occupant, makes contact with your specific telephone provider and initiates the change. ***It is extremely important that you contact your landline telephone service provider and update your address in their system so the correct telephone number displays in the emergency dispatch center.***
- **Why does my private road/drive need to be named?** The County ordinance requires that roads serving four or more residences or lots require naming. Emergency service providers have informed us that it is much easier to watch for road name signs while traveling, then it is to watch for multiple address numbers stacked at the entrance to a driveway, or an address range sign (i.e. 10300-10310). Your building is much easier to find/save if your road is named, the road sign is visible at the intersection, and your address number is posted at the point where your driveway branches off the named road.
- **Why does my address number also need to change when my road name changes?** Typically, the road being named has an overall different direction from the road you are currently addressed from. As an example, if the

road you were addressed from was a generally North/South road and your address was on that number grid, likely your private road will be on an East/West trajectory and the grid of address numbers would differ.

- **Will Google Maps, Garmin, etc. find my new address?** The County does not have control over these external systems. They will catch up over time but it is their responsibility to update their systems. The County mapping system is updated as changes are made, and those external mapping systems can access the information. Many of these providers rely on the postal address system, which the County notifies.
- **I don't want an address posted for my cabin tucked away in the woods as it will bring attention to it.** While we understand this, should you require emergency services, it is in your best interest to have an address and is a requirement of the County and some Town addressing ordinances.
- **I only use my cabin seasonally; do I still need an address?** Yes, the ordinance requires it. Emergencies happen all the time, not just at year-round use properties, i.e. health related issues, allergic reactions to bee stings, hunting/boating accidents, among many others. In addition, most insurance companies require an address to insure the property.
- **Why do I need an address? If my property is on fire, wouldn't an emergency provider see it?** While a large external fire would more than likely be visible, keep in mind that emergency services are for more than just fire. There may be a person having a health emergency inside the structure and there is no one else at the property to direct the providers to the party or the fire is small and still internal. An address expedites emergency services.
- **My private road is gated and/or locked so emergency services will not be able to access my property.** While the County and/or Town cannot guarantee your private road is accessible by emergency vehicles, they will attempt to find you if service is requested. We recommend you contact emergency providers and inform them of your gate/lock situation, so they can put a note in their system on how to access it if they would need special equipment to open the gate.
- **If a road name sign is posted, people will think it is a public road and I don't want people coming down the road.** You can attach a "Private Road" sign to the sign post so people clearly understand the road is private.

The County and Town understand that a change of address is inconvenient and we put much thought into making a change before we implement. Please understand that a change of address is necessary and vital to proper emergency services.