

**STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF BLOUNT
TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE**

ORDINANCE NO. HL 2025-07

**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE
RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HIGHLAND LAKE, ALABAMA, AS
FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1: DEFINITION OF A FIREARM

A firearm shall be defined as any device using an explosive charge (black powder, smokeless powder, etc.) to propel a projectile.

SECTION 2: RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person within the corporate limits of the Town of Highland Lake to willfully or through neglect, fire, shoot or otherwise discharge a firearm in such a manner as to put persons, or the property of another, at risk of harm.
- B. It shall be unlawful to fire, shoot, or otherwise discharge a firearm into or across the lake.
- C. It shall be unlawful to fire, shoot, or otherwise discharge a firearm into a building, occupied or otherwise.
- D. It shall be unlawful to fire, shoot, or otherwise discharge a firearm into a motor vehicle, occupied or otherwise.
- E. It shall be unlawful to fire, shoot, or otherwise discharge a firearm from or across a public roadway.

SECTION 3: DEFINITION OF A RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

- A. Any discharge of a firearm that clearly endangers the safety of persons, pets, livestock, or property shall be deemed reckless.
- B. And discharge of a firearm where the danger to persons, pets, livestock or property, is not overtly apparent but is, in the opinion of a law enforcement officer, a hazard to public safety, shall be deemed reckless.

SECTION 4: EXEMPTIONS

This ordinance shall in no wise restrict:

- 1. A law enforcement officer in the discharge of his/her duties.
- 2. A person in defense of his/her home, property, or personal safety.
- 3. A person engaged in otherwise lawful activities.

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SECTION 5: VIOLATION

Reckless discharge of a firearm, as defined in Section 2, shall result in an issuance of a citation / notice.

SECTION 6: PENALTIES

A. Upon violation and issuance of a citation / notice, issued by the Town of Highland Lake, the defendant may enter a guilty plea to the offense and waive his or her right to trial before the District Court of Blount County, Alabama and remit the appropriate fine to the Town of Highland Lake within 30 days of issuance of citation / notice. Fines must be remitted in person at the Highland Lake Town Hall. Failure to act within the 30 days of issuance of citation / notice will result in referral to the District Court of Blount County for further action.

- The fine shall be five hundred and no/100 dollars (\$500) for all reckless discharge violations

B. If the Defendant is found guilty by the District Court of Blount County, Alabama, the Court may impose a fine or imprisonment or both along with court costs. Violations of this Ordinance are punishable by a term of imprisonment in the Blount County Jail not to exceed six (6) months and/or a fine as described in the fee schedule above.

SECTION 7: PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE

Upon passage of this Ordinance, all previous Ordinances and amendments pertaining to reckless discharge of firearms within the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama are hereby rescinded.

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Adopted and approved this the ##th day of #### 2025.

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| <p>_____ Gail Bailey, Mayor</p> | <p>_____ Sid Nelson, Council</p> |
| <p>_____ Sam Pearson, Council</p> | <p>_____ Carl Randall, Council</p> |
| <p>_____ Bobby Rhodes, Council</p> | <p>_____ Ramzi Malek, Council</p> |
| <p>ATTEST:</p> | |
| <p>_____ Mary Ann Allen, Clerk</p> | |