



**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS**

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**OPERATIONS**  
**POLICY AND PROCEDURE NOTICES # 8/96**

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**TO:** Distribution  
**FROM:** Richard C. Visconti, R.A. *RV*  
**DATE:** October 25, 1996  
**SUBJECT:** Adult Establishments -- Measuring the 500 feet distance requirement

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**Reference:** Zoning Resolution Sections 11-113, 11-30, 12-10, 32-00, 32-01, 42-00, 42-01, 42-55, 51-00, 52-00, and 72-00, et seq.

**Purpose:** To clarify the manner in which the Department determines the distances between adult establishments and schools or places of worship/churches.

**Effective:** October 26, 1996

**Specifics:**

Pursuant to the Zoning Resolution, adult establishments are not permitted in residence districts and certain commercial districts. In those districts in which adult establishments are permitted, the Zoning Resolution requires that such establishments be located at least 500 feet from a place of worship/church, a school (both also referred to as "sensitive receptors"), or another adult establishment. A "place of worship"/"church" is defined in PPN # 7/96. A "school" is defined in Section 12-10 of the Zoning Resolution. In order to ascertain whether an adult establishment is within 500 feet of such sensitive receptor or another adult establishment, the Department of Buildings shall determine the 500-foot distance radially as set forth below.

### **Measuring From the Adult Establishment**

When measuring from the adult establishment, the 500-foot distance shall be measured from the center line of the door(s) of the principal entrance of the adult establishment or from the center line of the ground floor door(s) giving the most direct street access to the adult establishment.

### **Measuring Between Two Adult Establishments "A" and "B"**

When measuring between two adult establishments, the 500-foot distance shall be measured from the center line of the door(s) of the principal entrance of adult establishment "A" or from the center line of the ground floor door(s) giving the most direct street access to adult establishment "A" to the center line of the door(s) of the principal entrance of adult establishment "B" or to the center line of the ground floor door(s) giving the most direct street access to adult establishment "B".

### **Measuring From the Adult Establishment to the Sensitive Receptor**

With respect to measuring from the adult establishment to the sensitive receptor, the 500-foot distance shall be measured from the center line of the door(s) of the principal entrance of the adult establishment or from the center line of the ground floor door(s) giving the most direct street access to the adult establishment to the outside face of the closest demising wall of the school or place of worship. If there are outdoor spaces directly adjacent to and customarily used by such school or place of worship, such as a school playground, the 500-foot distance shall be measured from the previously described door(s) of the adult establishment to the nearest boundary point of a school playground rather than the boundary of the school building.

However, if a school or place of worship shares a zoning lot with an unrelated use such as a commercial office building, the office building portion of the zoning lot shall not be considered part of the sensitive receptor site.

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