

Minnesota Cold Weather Rule Application

Inability to Pay/Income Eligibility Declaration Form

IF YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR BILLS AND NEED COLD WEATHER PROTECTION FROM UTILITY SHUTOFF, fill out this form & return it to the City of Brownton immediately. Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Cold Weather Rule provides that from October 15 through April 15 a utility cannot disconnect a residential utility customer if you enter into and keep current with a mutually agreed upon payment arrangement with the utility.

Fill out completely - please print: NAME _____

SERVICE ADDRESS _____ APT# _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Phone # _____ Cell# _____

LOCATION ID (from your bill) _____ - _____ - _____ TOTAL AMOUNT YOU OWE \$ _____

Total annual (yearly) household income \$ _____ Total Number of persons in household (include yourself) _____

Enclosed with this application is the income information for all persons in the home: (Required)

- Your payroll stubs for the past two months _____
- A current copy of your unemployment benefits _____
- Pension/Retirement benefits Statements _____
- Income Tax Return for the previous year _____
- Social Security/Social Security Disability _____
- General Assistance—all times _____
- M _____
- F _____
- I _____
- P _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- Other & explain: _____

Please check if any apply:

Elderly (over 65) Person in Residence _____ Medical Emergency _____

Disabled Person in Residence _____

I am applying for: _____ Inability to Pay _____ Request for 10% Payment Plan (You must pay at least 10% of your monthly income or the full amount of your current bill, whichever is less in the cold weather months.)

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Third Party Notification

If you have been issued a notice of disconnection, you may want to alert a third party (friend, relative, church group, or community agency) that a disconnection notice has been issued to you. The third party will not be responsible to pay your bill. The third party does have the right to contact City of Brownton and provide information or work out a payment agreement. If you want a third party to be notified of the potential disconnection, please complete the following and return it to City of Brownton.

Customer Name _____

Location ID Number (from utility bill) _____

Service Address _____

Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

Annual Notice of Residential Customer Rights & Responsibilities



City of Brownton
Municipal Utilities

335 3rd St S
Brownton, MN 55312
(320) 328-5318

www.cityofbrownton.com

City of Brownton has my permission to provide information to & accept information from the party named below. City of Brownton will make every effort to send a copy of the Notice of Disconnection to the party specified. The customer making the request understands that City of Brownton assumes no liability for failure of the third party to receive or act upon said notice.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Third Party to be Notified _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Third Party Signature _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has issued a Cold Weather Rule (Chapter 7820 No. 1800) which provides that from October 15 through April 15, a utility cannot disconnect a residential utility customer for nonpayment if the disconnection would affect their primary heat source and if a customer has demonstrated an inability to pay on forms provided by the utility company, and who made reasonable timely payment to the utility under a payment plan that considers the financial resources of the household.

To qualify for the Cold Weather Rule the customers' utility account must indicate reasonable timely payments made under a payment schedule as of the billing cycle immediately preceding the start of the current cold weather months. The household income of the customer needs to be less than 50 percent of the state median income (please refer to the chart).

This notice is to tell you about your rights and responsibility under the Cold Weather Rule. These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you with winter utility bills. You must act **promptly!** If you choose not to assert your rights or choose not to enter into a mutually acceptable payment schedule, **your service may be disconnected.**

The Cold Weather Rule provides you with these options:

The right to declare your Inability to Pay your utility bill in writing on forms provided by the **City of Brownton**. If you do so, service affecting your primary heat source cannot be disconnected for nonpayment of your bill, **if you enter into and keep a payment schedule with the utility.**

The responsibility, if you choose to declare Inability to Pay, to complete an "Inability to Pay" form and return it to **City of Brownton**. **Upon mailing this form, you must also contact City of Brownton to arrange a payment plan.**

The right to a mutually acceptable payment schedule with **City Of Brownton**. This payment schedule will cover your existing amount due plus the estimated usage during the payment schedule period. If you are able to pay but still wish to enter into a payment schedule, contact **City of Brownton** immediately to arrange a schedule.

The responsibility of making payments as agreed or promptly notifying **City Of Brownton** why you cannot keep the agreement. You may then request that the original payment schedule be changed. Any change is initially subject to City of Brownton approval.

The right to appeal. The customer has the right to appeal a notice of involuntary disconnection. City of Brownton will not disconnect the customer until the appeal is resolved.

Utility responsibility is to notify the City of Brownton's Water Department of any utility disconnections during the period of October 15 through April 15.

If you need help paying your utility bills, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. To find out if you qualify and how to apply, contact the organizations listed here.

**United Community Action
Agency McLeod County
Outreach**

218 Main St S Suite 108
Hutchinson MN 55350
320-587-5244 or 800-829-2132
800-992-1710 (Willmar)
Fax: 320-587-2677 (Hutchinson)
Fax: 320-235-7703 (Willmar)

Common Cup Ministry
105 Second Avenue SW #2
Hutchinson MN 55350
320-587-2213

McLeod County Social Service
1805 Ford Ave N Ste 100
Glencoe MN 55336
320-864-3144 or 800-247-1756

2019 Max Energy Assistance Program Income

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM 3 MONTH INCOME	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$ 6,495	\$25,983
2	\$ 8,494	\$33,978
3	\$10,493	\$41,973
4	\$12,492	\$49,698
5	\$14,490	\$57,963
6	\$16,489	\$65,958
7	\$16,864	\$67,457
8	\$17,239	\$68,956

Energy Conservation Tips

Replace or clean your furnace filters monthly.

Don't block heating vents, radiators, or registers with furniture or clutter. Keep them clean.

Lower the setting of your hot water heater to 120 degrees F.

Open shades during winter days for passive solar heat and close them at night.

In the summer, use shades to block out direct sunlight during the day.

In the winter lower your thermostat in the evening while you sleep.

Wash your laundry in cold or warm water rather than hot.