

DEMONSTRATION-LAW SNAPSHOT

Minneapolis

Signage, sound, recording, permits, and police interaction — one-page field reference

As of Jul 21, 2026

Research completed Jul 21, 2026

Confidence: medium



- This city is **moderately regulated** — sidewalk demonstration is lawful, but permit, noise, or buffer-zone rules apply.

✓ RECORDING CONSENT One-party	✓ OPEN RECORDING IN PUBLIC Lawful	RECORD POLICE Unrecognized	AMPLIFICATION PERMIT Conditional
DAYTIME NOISE LIMIT 10 dB(C) Leq above ambient indoors; permitted amplification: 80/90 dB(A) at 50 ft		QUIET HOURS 10pm-7am	
✓ HANDHELD SIGN RULES None	HEALTHCARE BUFFER ZONE Municipal	RESIDENTIAL PICKETING Targeted only	SIDEWALK PERMIT Never required
✓ LEAFLETING Unrestricted	ANTI-MASK LAW Yes	✓ STOP-AND-IDENTIFY No	PENDING CHANGE See below

§ Jurisdiction overview

Sidewalk speech, signs, and noncommercial handbilling generally need no permit, but amplified sound, street processions, obstruction, and targeted residential conduct are regulated.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System § C(D) · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances § 389.60(a)-(e)

● Sound & noise

AMPLIFIED SOUND

Outdoor amplification generally requires a permit, but equipment of ten watts or less, such as a bullhorn, is exempt from that permit requirement from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Minneapolis Ordinance No. 2019-062, amending § 389.105(c)(10) · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances § 389.60(a)-(e) · Minneapolis Ordinance No. 2019-062, amending § 389.105(c)(3)-(6)

HEALTHCARE BUFFER ZONES

Chapter 405 contains no fixed-distance clinic buffer zone; it prohibits physical disruption of access and driveway obstruction but expressly excepts constitutionally protected conduct.

RECORDING IN PUBLIC

Minnesota permits a private person to record a communication when the recorder is a party or one party has consented, absent a criminal or tortious purpose.

NOISE LIMITS

Current Chapter 389 uses 10 dB(C) Leq above ambient indoors by day and 5 dB(C) Leq at night, incorporates state outdoor limits, and sets separate 80/90 dB(A) permit limits for amplification.

RESIDENTIAL PICKETING

Minnesota permits civil harassment restraining orders for targeted residential picketing directed at one residence on more than one occasion, although there is no verified general Minneapolis criminal ban.

RECORDING POLICE

The Eighth Circuit has not expressly recognized a First Amendment right to record police in public, although recording alone is not a Minnesota crime and police conduct remains subject to other constitutional limits.

§ Permits & small groups

WITHOUT A PERMIT

The Park Board expressly exempts free-speech groups of fewer than 50 participants from its special-event permit requirement, and no separate sidewalk-assembly permit threshold was verified.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System §§ C(D), 1 · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System definition of "Special Event"

WHEN A PERMIT IS REQUIRED

Street or alley parades and regulated amplification require permits, while stationary sidewalk expression ordinarily does not have a numeric permit threshold.

Penalties in effect

OFFENSE	LEVEL	PENALTY
Public nuisance by obstruction of a public right-of-way — Minn. Stat. § 609.74(2)	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both if no different punishment applies
Unlawful assembly — Minn. Stat. § 609.705	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both
Presence at unlawful assembly after direction to leave — Minn. Stat. § 609.715	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both
Disorderly conduct, except invalid § 609.72, subd. 1(2) clause — Minn. Stat. § 609.72	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both
Concealing identity in public without an exception — Minn. Stat. § 609.735	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both

Recent changes

May 2026	SF 3699, an omnibus immigration-enforcement and civil-remedies bill that included identity-concealment amendments, passed the Senate as amended but shows no House action or final enactment; it is dead by adjournment.
Mar 2026	SF 4413 and SF 4582 proposed additional modifications to the public identity-concealment statute and law-enforcement exceptions.
Feb 2026	HF 3412 and SF 3590 proposed amendments to Minnesota's identity-concealment statute, including an airborne-toxin exception and specified law-enforcement exceptions.
Apr 2025	SF 3208, which proposed a reimbursement program for agencies responding to protests and demonstrations at the Capitol complex and governor's residence, was introduced and referred but did not become law before the 94th Legislature ended.
Mar 2025	HF 2809, proposing a crime of residential protesting, and SF 3359, independently proposing a residential-protesting crime, were introduced and referred but show no enactment; both are dead by adjournment of the 94th Legislature.
Feb 2025	SF 1501, proposed increased penalties for obstructing traffic access to a trunk highway or airport, was introduced and referred without further legislative action shown on its bill page; it is dead by adjournment of the 94th Legislature.
Jan 2025	SF 708 was introduced to bar state loans, grants, and assistance for persons convicted of offenses related to protests, demonstrations, rallies, civil unrest, or marches.

Pending changes to watch

Minnesota Department of Human Rights–City of Minneapolis court-enforceable settlement agreement Litigation · Ongoing court-enforceable settlement framework; the city provides independent-evaluator reports and continuing policy-feedback materials. Continuing monitoring and policy development may affect Minneapolis police practices relevant to demonstrations and crowd management.
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Key authorities

Minneapolis Noise Ordinance Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances ch. 389 Establishes general ambient-relative noise standards, state-rule incorporation, and express speech and religious-exercise safeguards.
Outdoor amplified sound amendment Minneapolis Ordinance No. 2019-062, amending § 389.105 Sets permit tiers, 80/90 dB(A) limits, plainly-audible conditions, and the ten-watt bullhorn exemption.
Reproductive healthcare facilities access amendment Minneapolis Code §§ 405.20, 405.30 Prohibits physical access disruption and driveway obstruction while expressly excepting protected conduct.
MPRB park-use policy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System (May 5, 2021) Exempts under-50 free-speech groups from special-event permits and regulates park structures, equipment, and public-forum areas.

Minnesota one-party consent statute Minn. Stat. § 626A.02

Permits private-party interception where the recorder is a party or one party consents, subject to the criminal-or-tortious-purpose limitation.

Generated from the structured demonstration-law deep-research record for Minneapolis, Minnesota (research completed 2026-07-21). This snapshot condenses a much larger sourced dataset — full citations, quoted ordinance text, and plain-language explanations are in the full Minneapolis survey and the full reference PDF. This document has not been reviewed by a lawyer and should not be used as legal advice.