

**COLD WEATHER RULE – INABILITY TO PAY  
APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION FROM DISCONNECTION**

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule protects residential utility customers during the cold winter months. Under this rule, your electric service will not be disconnected from October 15th through April 15th **if you meet** the Cold Weather Rule requirements **and your primary heat source** is provided by, or controlled by, **your electric service**.

Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Acct # \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address \_\_\_\_\_ Kasson, MN 55944

Home/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Roommate Name \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount you owe \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total annual (yearly) household income for **all** persons living in the house hold \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Arrangements (Inability to pay)**

**(This part is filled out by City personnel only)**

I propose to pay my OUTSTANDING and FUTURE bills according to the following schedule of payments:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Household	Annual
<u>1</u>	<u>\$27,047</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>\$35,370</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>\$43,692</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>\$52,014</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>\$60,336</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>\$68,658</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>\$70,219</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>\$71,779</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>\$73,340</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>\$74,900</u>



**KNOW YOUR  
RIGHTS &  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

If you are the “third party” for the customer whose service is affected by this notice and are submitting this form on their behalf, please sign here.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I hereby acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the Notice of Residential Customer’s Rights and Responsibilities. I declare that the above information is true and correct. I give my permission to any energy provider or public assistance agency that serves me to exchange income and billing information with other energy providers and my utility for the purpose of program qualifications.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



401 5<sup>th</sup> St SE  
 Kasson, MN 55944  
 (507) 634-6325

## Third Party Notification Request

City of Kasson Public Utilities offers customers the opportunity to have a third party notified if their electric service is to be disconnected. This program can be especially helpful for the ill, senior citizens, disabled and those who live alone. The third party could be a friend, relative, church or community agency. The third party will receive copies of all disconnect notices mailed to the customer, but is NOT responsible to pay the bills. By volunteering, the third party is able to receive and give information about personal circumstances and make payment arrangements with City of Kasson Public Utilities for the customer.

---

Customer Name

---

Account Number

---

Service Address

---

Home Phone

Work Phone

I understand this agreement does not remove my personal obligation for payments. City of Kasson Public Utilities has my permission to provide information to and accept information from the party named below:

---

Customer Signature

Date

### Name of Third Party to be notified

---

Name of Third Party

---

Third Party Address

---

City

State

Zip

---

Third Party Home Phone

Work Phone

### Return to:

**City of Kasson  
401 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Kasson, MN 555944**

## Notice of Residential Customer Rights and Responsibilities

Some customers find it hard to pay their utility bills in the winter. The Minnesota State Legislature has passed a law that is commonly referred to as the “Cold Weather Rule” to protect residential customers from disconnection if they cannot pay their bills in full. This protection lasts from October 15 through April 15. Customers may qualify for this protection if they meet **ALL** of the following conditions:

1. The customer has completed the Application for Protection Form provided by the utility.
2. The household income is less than 50% of the state median income level. (customers receiving ‘any form of public assistance’ are deemed to have qualified for inability to pay status)
3. The customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments on a mutually acceptable payment plan.

This notice is to inform customers of their rights and responsibilities 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 plan, your electric service may be disconnected.

### Your rights and responsibilities are:

- **The right** to declare an inability to pay your electric bill.
- **The responsibility** if choosing inability to pay, to complete fully the COLD WEATHER RULE – INABILITY TO PAY APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION form and return to the City of Kasson Public Utilities.
- **The right** to negotiate a mutually acceptable payment plan with the City of Kasson Public Utilities which addresses existing past due balances and current and future usage during the cold weather period.
- **The responsibility** to make timely payments under the payment plan. Failure to comply with or change the existing payment arrangement may result in the service being disconnected.
- **The right** to appeal to the Commission a determination of income by the utility and the right to appeal if the customer and utility cannot arrive at a mutually acceptable payment plan. Service will not be disconnected during the appeal process.

The Cold Weather Rule does not totally forbid winter shut off. You must contact the utility in advance of the disconnect date to avoid disconnection or a limiting device. **IF YOU RECEIVE A SHUT OFF NOTICE THIS WINTER, YOU MUST ACT PROMPTLY!**

In addition, customers who use life-sustaining electrical medical equipment, please contact the City of Kasson Public Utilities for more information (507) 634-6325.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you need help paying your electric utility bills, you may qualify for state or federal energy assistance. For complete qualifications and application information, contact the following agencies:

**MNPrairie (507) 923-2900**  
**(Minnesota Prairie County Alliance)**  
Formerly Dodge County Social Services  
Courthouse Building, Lower Level, Mantorville

**Semcac, Inc**  
**(507) 634-4350 or (800) 944-3281**  
20 Veterans Memorial Highway E  
Kasson, MN 55944

## ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- Manage your thermostat 66°-68° during the heating season.
- Install a programmable thermostat. Set the temperature back 10° for eight hours every night during the winter months, and lower your heating bills by 10%.
- Replace or clean your furnace filters monthly.
- Check the duct work for dirt streaks, especially seams. These indicate air leaks and they should be sealed.
- Caulk and weather strip any cracks around doors and windows.
- Insulate any ducts or pipes that travel through unheated spaces.
- Remove or cover window air conditioners during the winter.
- Lower the setting of your hot water heater to 120°F
- Open shades during winter days for passive solar heat and close them at night.
- Completely disconnect power to your home electronics (computer, peripheral equipment, TV, DVD, game systems etc.) by using a power strip as a central turn off point. Keep in mind; DVRs require standby power to operate properly.