

657A.1A Preliminary inspection of building.

1. No sooner than one hundred thirty-five days after a property has become vacant, a person, other than a governmental entity, may request that the responsible building official inspect the property and certify that a property is both abandoned and in need of abatement. The responsible building official may also initiate an inspection on the official's own initiative at any time.

2. If the responsible building official finds from an exterior view of the property, in addition to any other credible information that the official may have, that there is reasonable cause to believe that the property is abandoned and in need of abatement, the official shall schedule a date and time for an inspection of the property by the official. The person requesting the inspection shall provide written notice of the scheduled inspection by first class mail and certified mail to the owner and all interested persons at least twenty days before the inspection. The notice must state the date, time, and place of the inspection and state that unless the owner appears at the inspection to allow the responsible building official access to the interior of the property, the official, accompanied by the person serving notice and any interested persons appearing for the inspection, may enter the property to determine whether the property is abandoned and in need of abatement and, if so, to estimate the costs of abatement. The official may enter the property for an inspection, along with the person serving notice and any interested persons, if the owner is not present for the inspection. Upon request, the inspection may be rescheduled as needed. The responsible building official must obtain an administrative search warrant pursuant to [section 808.14](#) to enter any building to conduct an inspection pursuant to [this section](#).

3. The responsible building official's findings shall be in writing with copies provided to the person requesting the inspection, the owner, and all interested parties. The governmental entity employing the responsible building official may establish and charge a fee to cover the reasonable costs of the inspection, which shall be added to costs in an action under [this chapter](#).

4. Evidence that financial obligations in respect to a building, including but not limited to payments of a mortgage, bills, or property taxes, are currently met does not rebut a finding of abandonment if the property is substantially in need of abatement in an action filed under [section 657A.2](#).

[2019 Acts, ch 105, §5](#)

Referred to in [§631.1](#), [657A.2](#), [657A.8](#), [657A.10A](#), [657A.10B](#)