



## LAND USE APPLICATION INFORMATION HARDSHIP VARIANCES

1. Hardship variances are intended to allow the placement of a second dwelling on a lot or parcel for persons who, for medical reasons, need to live in close proximity to a relative or other person who will assist in their care.
2. Nothing in the Planning Commission interpretation is intended to supercede or eliminate other requirements in the Morrow County Zoning Ordinance. Hardship Variance standards clarify the Zoning Ordinance requirements set forth in Section 7.020, Section 3.010, and Section 4.130.
3. The caregiver can be a direct relative or licensed caregiver.
4. A Hardship Variance is not limited to a particular health condition. Rather, a doctor's statement should describe the health condition in general and include a specific recommendation that the patient must live close to a caregiver.
5. In resource zones, if the hardship dwelling will not use a public sanitary sewer system the sewer shall use the same subsurface sewage disposal system used by the existing dwelling if that disposal system is adequate to accommodate the additional dwelling. Department of Environmental Quality verification and approval shall be required in either case. In other zones where residential use is allowed, a hardship dwelling.
6. Hardship variances shall be reviewed every 2 years.
7. Applicants shall sign a guarantee that the second dwelling will be removed within a specified period after the hardship no longer exists.

### INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH AN APPLICATION

- A. A statement from a doctor or medical professional verifying the health condition and need to live close to caregiver. This statement or certification needs to be on the medical doctor/professional's stationery or stamped by the medical doctor/professional's office, and indicate that the patient is not physically or mentally capable of maintaining him/herself in a residence on a separate property, and is dependent on someone being close by for assistance. As an alternative, the medical doctor/professional can stamp and sign the application form that is available through the Planning Department for a medical hardship
- B. A plot plan of property showing location of all *existing and proposed* buildings, septic system drainfield(s), well, access to public roadway.
- C. A letter describing situation and nature of caregiving, name of occupants and anticipated duration for second dwelling.

**Morrow County Planning Department**  
**P.O. Box 40, Irrigon Oregon 97844**  
**(541) 922-4624 FAX: (541) 922-3472**