Mercer County, Missouri: written reply to a public-records request

Copied word for word from the county's email to DreamStart Building Company. Personal phone numbers and email addresses are left out.

From: Judy Hamilton, Mercer County Clerk, 802 E. Main Street, Princeton, MO 64673 · 660-748-3425

Received: October 26, 2026

The County Clerk typed her answers at the end of each "What we have" line of our checklist.

The county's reply:

Please see answers below.

Judy Hamilton

Mercer County Clerk

802 E. Main Street

Princeton, MO 64673

660-748-3425

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1. County zoning: does the county have zoning for unincorporated land (county-wide, by township, or none)?

What we have: We don't know yet. Madison, Washington and Medicine Townships do have planning and zoning.

2. Building permit: is a county building or land-use permit required for a new single-family home outside city limits? If so, what is the fee?

What we have: We don't know yet. No county building permit required

3. Building code: has the county adopted a residential building code (for example the IRC), and which edition?

What we have: None adopted. The Missouri Department of Economic Development's 2021 county building-code data lists no adopted residential code for Mercer County. no

4. Inspections: which inspections does the county require for a new home (footing, rough-in, final), if any?

What we have: We don't know yet. n/a No county regulation

5. Owner's own work: may a property owner do their own electrical and plumbing, or is a licensed contractor required?

What we have: We don't know yet. No requirements

6. Septic: who issues septic permits (county health department, a county office, or the state), the fee, whether a soil test is required, and whether lots of 3 acres or more are exempt?

What we have: The state (DHSS Onsite Program) issues septic permits in Mercer County, not a county office. Check with county health department

7. Minimum lot size for a home, if any (and by district, if zoned)?

What we have: We don't know yet. No county regulation

8. Minimum home size (square feet), if any?

What we have: We don't know yet. No county regulation

9. Homes per parcel: how many homes may be built on one parcel?

What we have: We don't know yet. No county regulation

10. Dividing land: when must land be platted or surveyed before a home can be built?

What we have: We don't know yet. No county regulation

11. Floodplain: does the county take part in the National Flood Insurance Program, and is a floodplain development permit required? Who is the floodplain administrator?

What we have: FEMA lists unincorporated Mercer County as not in the National Flood Insurance Program (the City of Princeton participates).

12. Who to call: the best office and phone number for building questions on rural land.

What we have: We don't know yet. Madison, Washington and Medicine Townships do have planning and zoning. If property is located in one of these townships, You would need to call trustee of township.

From: Mercer County Clerk's office

Received: October 30, 2026

The county typed its answers into our checklist. The short item names are ours; the answers are the county's words.

The county's reply:

6. Septic (is the county health department the right contact, or does the county have a septic ordinance or document?): Mercer County does not have an ordinance.

11. Floodplain (FEMA lists unincorporated Mercer County as not in the National Flood Insurance Program (the City of Princeton participates). Is that correct, and does the county require a floodplain permit?): no