



Building Inspection Division  
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**Code Interpretation:** 2015-07

**Date:** 12/2/2015

**Code/ Edition:** 2012 International Residential Code (IRC)  
Raymore Municipal Code (RMC)

**Section(s):** IRC 312.1.1; RMC 500.010

**Subject:** Guard requirements along typical residential landscaping elements.

**Question:** Is it the intent of 312.1.1 to require guards along sidewalks, driveways, yards, window wells or typical landscaping elements associated with One-and-Two Family Dwellings?

**Answer:** No, with conditions.

**Commentary:** Section 312.1.1 requires guards along all open-sided walking surfaces (including stairs, ramps, landings, etc.) that are within the scope of the IRC. The IRC does not regulate sidewalks, driveways, yards or typical residential landscaping elements such as rock walls or window wells for guard requirements. However, the Building Official is authorized under certain conditions (such as an elevated driveway or patio/ deck surface above and/or adjacent to stairs) to enforce the guard requirement in accordance with RMC 500.010 "...minimum requirements to safeguard the public safety, health and general welfare, insofar as...to promote safety to life and property from fire and other hazards incident to the... maintenance of buildings, structures or premises...".

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