



# City of Apache Junction

## Development Services Department



### CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION STAFF MEMO

**Date:** April 14, 2025

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**Through:** Bryant Powell, City Manager  
Rudy Esquivias, Development Services Director  
Sidney Urias, Planning Manager

**From:** Nick Leftwich, Planner

**Subject:** Apache Junction City Code, Vol. I, Chapter 8: Business regulations concerning fortune telling businesses

#### **Background:**

Following a complaint by a resident regarding the business licensing fees charged to permit fortune telling businesses, Staff were directed to research comparable codes and provide the City Council information regarding fortune telling businesses in order to inform a possible Direction to Staff on the matter.

Per **§ 8-1-1 DEFINITIONS:** A "Fortune Teller" is "a person who purports to have the ability to predict a person's future by palmistry, using a crystal ball or cards, or similar methods."

There is nothing in the zoning ordinance specific to treating fortune tellers any differently from another private office uses, but the Business Code of the City (AJCC, Vol. I, Ch. 8, § 8-2-7 PERMITS; FEES.) has a specific requirement that fortune tellers require approval from Public Safety and have a specific and unique business licensing permit and fee of \$1200.

#### **§ 8-2-7 PERMITS; FEES:**

Type of Permit	Initial Fee	Renewal Fee
Fortuneteller, palmist (with approval of the director of public safety)	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00



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### Code Comparisons for Fortune Telling & Palm Readers

City	Business Code Policy
Apache Junction	Unique Fee (\$1200 per year, up from \$50) & Approval of Public Safety
Mesa	Unique Fee (\$300 per year, up from \$25), Background check & specific regulations
Chandler	Nothing in their city code regarding fortune telling, psychics, or palm reading.
Tempe	Most businesses do not require a general license, but Fortune Telling/Palm Readers do, with a unique fee (\$250 new, \$100 per year), Background check & specific regulations, Approval of Chief of Police
Gilbert	Nothing in their town code regarding fortune telling, psychics, or palm reading.
Queen Creek	The only mention in their code is for peddler/solicitor type practitioners: "Practice of palmistry, phrenology, astrology, fortune telling, mind reading, clairvoyancy, magic or any healing practices not licensed by the State of Arizona, or any similar calling without a fixed place of business" Unique Fee (\$50/day). The standard fee is \$60 per year.
Phoenix	The City of Phoenix does not have or issue a general business license. Only certain activities are regulated and require a license or require a recommendation/ approval from the City. Nothing in their city code regarding fortune telling, psychics, or palm reading.
Scottsdale	Unique Fee (\$100 per year), Background check/fingerprints & specific regulations
Maricopa	The city used to have additional requirements for "magic arts," but repealed them from the code in 2018.
Tucson	Additional Unique Fee (\$100 upon application) Background check & specific regulations, Approval of Chief of Police
Avondale	"Any person engaging in the practice of fortunetelling, palm-reading, or palmistry, and accepting therefor any form of compensation whatsoever, direct or indirect, whether by way of fee or donation is guilty of a misdemeanor." -Total Ban
Florence	Nothing in their town code regarding fortune telling, psychics, or palm reading.



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