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Rule On Kansas Utility Shutoffs Takes Effect

A rule preventing utility companies from disconnecting Kansas residents during extreme cold takes effect as the calendar turns to November.

The cold weather rule is enforced by the Kansas Corporation Commission and runs from Monday through March 31.

It prevents utilities from disconnecting natural gas or electric service for nonpayment when temperatures of 35 or lower are forecast for the following 24 hours.

Utility companies must offer customers a 12-month payment plan to maintain or re-establish service.

Shutoffs must be announced 24 hours in advance, and may be carried out only if the temperature is expected to top 35 degrees for 48 hours.

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