

Peoria's Statement and Response to Blood Clean-Up Stories

Peoria is concerned with the safety and well-being of the community.

When blood is spilled in a public area, state law treats it as medical waste and requires the city to remove it according to industry and legally obligated standards. In the case highlighted recently by 3TV, the minor who injured himself left his property and walked up and down the public sidewalk and street, leaving a trail of blood. Several neighbors notified the city about the blood trail and requested the city clean it up.

At the time, there were only two businesses on the list of vendors qualified to provide this service – only one of which is in the Phoenix area. Because that company was not available on day in question, the city turned to the second company on the list, which is located in Tucson. Since this event, Peoria has started looking for additional companies that perform that service.

It's important to note that Peoria is self-insured. That means taxpayers are on the hook for the cost of responding to incidents that threaten public safety. There is no third party, such as an insurance company, to cover the loss. Thus, city policy is that if a public safety incident is the result of personal negligence, the individual responsible – not the taxpayers – should foot the bill. In practice, Peoria pays the bill and then sends a letter seeking reimbursement from the responsible party. Other Valley cities do the same. Moreover, state law holds parents strictly liable for damages caused by their children.

Ultimately, Peoria agreed to drop the bill in this case due to the expense associated with the legal process, even though city officials believe that, under Arizona law, the minor's parents are liable for the clean-up cost.

– Steve Kemp, city attorney