



## **Tourist Accommodation FAQ**

*While these frequently asked question and responses endeavor to answer most concerns from community members, please read the Ordinance in its entirety as outlined in Chapter 8, Article VI of the Fayette County Code*

- **What is a Tourist Accommodation?**

A Tourist Accommodation is defined as any property facility, or structure providing accommodations for value to the public for not more than 30 consecutive days.

- **Is this the same as an AirBnB?**

AirBnB, VRBO, Homeaway, and others like it are individual corporations (“platforms”) that facilitate rentals of properties, generally as an alternative to traditional hotels or motels. The County’s definition and processes are limited to rentals for a period not more than 30 consecutive days.

- **I am the property owner. Why can’t I rent my own property for a short period while I’m away?**

Rentals for short durations of less than 30 days can have detrimental impacts on the character of residential neighborhoods by turning homes into de facto hotels, or leading to excessive noise and safety concerns. The County has a responsibility to mitigate these impacts.

- **What should I do if I received a letter from the County?**

Discontinue advertising and renting until you obtain a Tourist Accommodation Permit. Only properties which have a current permit are considered to be lawfully operating.

- **Can I serve food to my guest?**

Operators of tourist accommodations, other than operators of an A-R bed and breakfast inn, shall not be permitted to serve food to guests for sale or otherwise and no food preparation, except beverages, is permitted within individual guestrooms.

- **What is the Permit Fee?**

The Tourist Accommodation Permit annual fees are: \$250.00 permit fee, \$75.00 application fee and \$44.25 for a background check.

- **Is there a limit on how many guests I can host?**

Yes. Fayette County Environmental Health Department will determine the number of bedrooms authorized per residence. Only bedrooms may be utilized for guestrooms. In accordance with the Tourist Accommodation ordinance, no more than two guests shall be allowed per guestroom with the exception of an A-R Bed and Breakfast that is compliant with Sec. 110-169 of the County Code.

- **What are the rules regarding nuisance complaints?**

Failure of the owner or the local contact person of a Tourist Accommodation to respond to the Fayette County Code Enforcement Office or law enforcement in reference to a nuisance complaint arising out of the occupancy and use of the accommodation by a guest, or visitors will be grounds for revocation of the permit.

- **What are the penalties for violation of the Tourist Accommodation ordinance?**

Any persons violating any provision of the Tourist Accommodation ordinance are subject to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 60 days, or to both at the discretion of the judge. It is also important to note that the infliction of a penalty under the provisions of the ordinance does not prevent the revocation of the permit.

- **Can I use a detached structure or recreational vehicle as a tourist accommodation?**

No. Detached structures or recreational vehicles cannot be used as a tourist accommodation.