

Sec. 5.04.240 - Short Term Rentals.

1. Definitions:

- a.** Short Term Rental: “The provision of a room or space that is suitable or intended for occupancy or dwelling, sleeping or lodging purposes, for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, in exchange for a charge for the occupancy”
- b.** Short Term Rental Operator (“Operator”): “The proprietor of any dwelling, lodging or sleeping accommodations offered as a short-term rental, whether in the capacity of owner, lessee, sublessee, mortgagee in possession, licensee, or any other possessory capacity.”

2. Short Term Rental Registration.

- a.** An Operator must obtain a business license from the Town of Chatham pursuant to the Chatham, Virginia Code of Ordinances (“Chatham, Virginia Ordinance”) Title 5 Section 5.04.020 License required, which must be placed in a conspicuous location on the premises in compliance with Chatham, Virginia Ordinance Sec. 5.04.150
- b.** On or before the first business day of January of each subsequent year after registering as a short-term rental business, the owner or host or a duly authorized representative of a dwelling previously and continuing to be used as a short-term rental shall provide the Town with updated contact information.

3. Short Term Rental Rules and Regulations.

- a.** An Operator is required to pay all applicable Town Sales Tax and Pittsylvania County Lodging taxes.
- b.** All Short-Term Rental Operators are required to have a fire extinguisher (in compliance with the local Fire Department) accessible in the short-term rental property.
- c.** If the Operator of a short-term rental property does not live within thirty miles of the Town, they must designate a responsible local agent to be available 24 hours a day in case of emergencies when they apply for the business license. The name and contact information for such designee shall be posted in a conspicuous location inside the short-term rental property.
- d.** An Operator shall comply with all minimum safety regulations of the Virginia Department of Health and conspicuously display a Certificate of

Occupancy obtained from the Pittsylvania County Virginia Health Department.

- e.** All plumbing and HVAC located in the short-term rental property shall be in compliance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.
- f.** A fully functional smoke detector (in compliance with Virginia Code Section 15.2-922) and carbon monoxide detector must be installed on each floor of the dwelling and the Operator must provide one portable fire extinguisher (in compliance with the local Fire Department) per dwelling.
- g.** Occupants staying in the Short-Term Rental property must comply with the Town of Chatham noise ordinances located in Chatham, Virginia Ordinances Chapter 12.13 (Sections 12.13.010 through 12.13.040)
- h.** It is recommended that the Operator obtain a liability insurance policy.
- i.** It is recommended that the Operator provide emergency lighting on the short-term rental property (i.e., a flashlight or battery lantern).