



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

TOWN OF SIMSBURY

Short-Term Rental Ordinance

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen on November 8, 2021

I. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate short term rentals in the Town of Simsbury. By establishing these regulations the Town will be able to monitor short-term rental listings in Simsbury and ensure compliance with Town and State rules, regulations and laws that apply.
- B. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to General Statutes §7-148(b) and §7-148(c)(7).

II. Definitions

- A. **Occupant:** Any person(s), and their guests, who have entered into an agreement with a property owner for the use of the short-term rental.
- B. **Owner:** Any person(s) who holds the legal right to the property or beneficiary of like estate and uses the property as their legal residence.
- C. **Owner's Agent:** Any person who is 18 years or older and has been identified by a property Owner as a local contact. The Owner's Agent is authorized to act for an Owner who cannot be reached, in a reasonable amount of time, through all means of contact identified on their Short-Term Rental Permit.
- D. **Local:** For the purpose of this ordinance local is defined as a straight line distance of 20 miles.
- E. **Owner Occupied:** During the course of the rental period, the owner (as defined above) is present inside the dwelling.
- F. **Primary Residence:** An owner who spends at least 183 days at their property is defined as a primary resident.
- G. **Short-Term Rental:** Any furnished living space rented by a person(s) for a period of one (1) to twenty-nine (29) consecutive days. A short-term rental must have separate sleeping areas established for guests and guests must have at least shared access to one (1) full bathroom and cooking area.
- H. **Sleeping Area:** A sleeping area is defined as a separate space, with a bed provided that the guest(s) of a short term rental have access to. This area must be inside the dwelling and cannot include: tents, outdoor areas, and/or recreational vehicles. A minimum of 75 square feet of sleeping area per guest shall be provided.
- I. **Authorized Enforcement Agency:** Employees or designees of the town as designated by the Town Manager to enforce this ordinance.

- J. **Event:** A gathering of persons that are occupants of the short-term rental and others that are not guests/occupants. Occasions such as weddings, graduation parties, or other gatherings of people would be considered as an event. Events can be either indoor or outdoor for purposes of this regulation.

III. **Permit Required**

- A. No one shall offer to rent or operate a short-term rental in the Town of Simsbury without a valid short-term rental permit authorized by the Town of Simsbury and issued in accordance with this ordinance. Failure to secure a permit shall be a violation of this ordinance and subject to fines and enforcement as defined hereinafter.
- B. Only the owner(s) of record of the Premises subject to the permit and eighteen (18) years of age or older may apply for and obtain a short term rental permit.

IV. **Application Process for a Short-Term Rental Permit**

A. **Application Process**

- i. An application form as issued by the Planning and Land Use Department must be completed.
 - 1. All information entered on the form must be true and accurate to the applicant's knowledge and belief.
 - 2. The application shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - a. A list of all owner(s) and primary residents of the property, and their contact information.
 - b. Contact information for a Owner's Agent who can be called on in emergency situations if property owner is not responsive.
 - c. The number of separate sleeping spaces made available to guest(s) of the short term rental.
 - d. A signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the Property is in compliance with health and safety rules, zoning and the building and fire safety codes and allowing Town officials the right to perform inspections, both externally and internally, of a short-term rental property when safety violations are suspected.
 - ii. A new application fee of two hundred dollars (\$200) shall be collected upon the submission of the completed permit application.
 - iii. The Director of Planning and Community Development, or his/her designee, shall approve or deny any application for a short-term rental in the Town of Simsbury.
 - iv. An initial safety inspection must be completed by a staff member of the Planning or Building Department before a permit may be issued.
- B. An application must be fully complete when being submitted to the Planning and Land Use Department. The Town will not accept incomplete applications.

C. Limit to Amount of Rentals

- i. No owner may rent the property as a short-term rental under the permit for more than one hundred (100) days during any one year period of their short-term rental permit.
- ii. Only one rental permit is permitted per property.
- iii. Only one portion of a residence or accessory dwelling unit can be used at a property.

D. Parking Requirements

- i. The Town shall determine the number of parking spaces required for each property. Each required parking space shall have an area of not less than nine (9) feet by eighteen (18) feet, plus adequate driveways. All required parking spaces shall be located on paved surfaces.
- ii. No renter may park their vehicle on a public street between the hours of 2:00AM and 5:30AM.

E. Neighbor Notification

- i. Within five (5) days after the date of receipt of the application for an initial permit, the applicant shall submit, as part of the application, the name(s) and address(es) of the owner(s) of record of all property abutting or within one hundred (100) feet of the subject property, as listed on the last-completed grand list of the Town of Simsbury.
- ii. Notice of the permit shall be mailed by the applicant to the owner(s) of record of all property within one hundred (100) feet of the subject property not fewer than ten (10) days after application is filed. The applicant shall provide copies of completed certificate of mailings to Planning Department staff for issuance of permit.
- iii. Applications for permit renewals are not required to notify abutting property owner(s) as outlined above.

F. Owner Present During Rental Period

- i. The owner of a property has the option of being present while renting their property or renting their property while not being onsite during the rental period.
- ii. If choosing to be offsite during a rental period the owner must provide their contact information to the renter as well as to the Town on their permit. If the owner is unable to be in the local area while renting their property an owner's agent must be identified to the renter and to the town in case of emergencies or situations that may arise during the rental period.
- iii. Failure to provide proper contact information of either the property owner or owner's agent while the owner is offsite may result in the revocation of the Short-Term Rental Permit.

G. Accessory Dwellings

- i. Accessory dwellings, as defined by the Town of Simsbury Zoning Regulations, either attached or unattached, are permitted to be used as short-term rentals provided that:
 - 1. They meet the same standards set forth in this ordinance as a traditional single family house;
 - 2. They have at least 1 full bathroom;
 - 3. They have proper, functioning heating and cooling;
 - 4. The unit has received a certificate of zoning compliance from the Zoning Commission.

V. Expiration and Renewal Process of Permit

A. Expiration

- i. All short-term rental permits are valid for two years from date issued.
- ii. Permits become invalid at 11:59 PM on the listed expiration date of the short-term rental permit.

B. Renewal Process

- i. An application for renewal of a short-term rental permit must be submitted to the Planning and Land Use Department at least one (1) month but no more than three (3) months before the expiration date of the current permit.
- ii. Applicants must submit the following forms when applying for a renewal:
 - 1. The previously approved permit;
 - 2. An updated application, if any requested information has changed in the past year;
 - 3. A renewal fee of one hundred thirty dollars (\$130);
 - 4. Copies of sales tax receipts from the previous rental period.
- iii. The Director of Planning and Community Development, or his/her designee, may authorize a renewal inspection of the property before granting a renewed permit. The Director of Planning and Community Development, or his/her designee, may reject an application for renewal.
- iv. A renewal permit may only be applied for if the owner holds a valid short-term rental permit in the previous two year period that was not revoked by staff. Any permit that has lapsed eight (8) or more months between an expired permit and an application for a renew permit will be treated as a new application for a short-term rental permit and should follow the steps in Section IV, A.

VI. Non-transferability

- A. A short-term rental permit is not transferable to another owner or property.

VII. General Standards

A. Maximum Occupancy

- i. The maximum occupancy for a short-term rental unit shall be 6 persons or two persons per each bedroom in the unit, whichever is less.

B. Safety

- i. A short-term rental property must include:
 - 1. Working smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors with placement following town/State building codes;
 - 2. A working fire extinguisher shall be located in the dwelling at all times when the property is being used as a short-term rental;
 - 3. A clear path of egress is always visible while the property is available for rent;
 - 4. Properly functioning windows and doors in all livable spaces of the dwelling;
 - 5. Sleeping accommodations are to the state building code.
 - 6. Demonstrate compliance with the Town Zoning Regulations, health and safety codes that may apply as determined by the Farmington Valley Health District, the State Building Code and the State Fire Safety Code.

C. Conduct

- i. Short-term rental guests are subject to all relevant town codes and ordinances. It is up to short-term rental owners to notify their guests of any applicable codes and ordinances and to ensure that they are followed.
- ii. Unreasonable noise or other disturbances are prohibited.
- iii. Indoor and outdoor events are prohibited.
- iv. No guest may spend the night sleeping outdoors.
- v. Signage advertising the property as a short-term rental is prohibited.

VIII. Enforcement

- A. The authorized enforcement agency, as defined in Section II, has the authority to determine if a violation has occurred and to issue citations to correct any violation found to exist.
- B. Operating a short-term rental without a valid short-term rental permit, as well as using a property as a short-term rental for anything other than the allowed uses stated earlier in this document shall be a violation of this ordinance.
- C. The Authorized Enforcement Agency has the authority to suspend a short-term rental permit until the owner comes into compliance.
 - i. The Authorized Enforcement Agency or his/her designee, shall give the owner up to thirty (30) days to correct the violations.
 - ii. This suspension will not delay the expiration of an owner's short-term rental permit.

