

ORDINANCE 2021-31

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOONE COUNTY FISCAL COURT RELATING TO THE ENACTMENT OF LICENSING REGULATIONS FOR SHORT TERM RENTALS.

WHEREAS, the Boone County Fiscal Court previously determined that a need existed to provide regulations for Short Term Rentals (STR) in order to allow property owners to utilize their properties for that purpose in a manner which would not negatively impact the property of others; and

WHEREAS, the Boone County Planning Commission staff conducted a study of the issue and presented their findings to the Boone County Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Boone County Planning Commission approved a series of text amendments to Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 20, 23, 25, 31, and 40 of the Boone County Zoning Regulations to: (1) define “short term rental”; (2) allow “short term rentals” in agriculture, recreation, conservation, residential, Employment Planned Development/Residential Planned Development (EPD/RPD), Union Commercial (UC) and Small Community Overlay (SC) zones; and (3) add supplementary performance standards for “short term rentals; and

WHEREAS, the regulations contained in this Ordinance will be implemented in conjunction with the text amendments to the Boone County Zoning Regulations adopted in Ordinance 2021-29, which will be enacted concurrently with this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Boone County Fiscal Court has determined that regulations are necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF COUNTY OF BOONE, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY:

Section One

The Boone County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and modified to include the following provisions:

Short Term Rental Requirements

Section 1. Purpose and Applicability

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish regulations for the registration and use of Short Term Rentals, as defined herein, located in zoning districts in which Short Term Rentals are permitted as a principally permitted use and in zoning districts where Short Term Rentals have been approved as a conditional use and an application for conditional use has been approved by the Boone County Board of Adjustments and Zoning Appeals.

Section 2. Definitions

The following words, terms or phrases, when used in this Ordinance, shall have the meanings subscribed to them in this section except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning or where a definition is otherwise given:

Advertise means the written, audio, oral, or other methods of drawing the public's attention whether by brochure, written literature, or on-line posting to a Short Term Rental in order to promote the availability of the Short Term Rental.

Local Emergency Contact means an individual, other than the applicant, who is able and available to respond to emergency calls for service within one (1) hour and who is designated by the owner/applicant to act as the owner's authorized agent if the owner is outside of the immediate area or is otherwise unavailable. The local emergency contact should be available on a 24-hour basis, have access to the Short Term Rental property, and be authorized by the owner to act in the owner's absence to address any complaints, disturbances, and emergencies.

Owner means any person, agent, operator, firm, trust, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or business organization having a legal or equitable interest in the property; or recorded in the official records of the state, county, or municipality as holding title to the property; or otherwise having control of the property, including the guardian of the estate of any such person, and the executor of the estate of such person.

Permit means the Short Term Rental (STR) Permit which all persons must obtain from the County and keep in force in order to operate Short Term Rentals.

Short Term Rental (STR) is defined as the rental of a residential dwelling unit, or a portion thereof, for a period of less than 30 days. The term does not include:

1. a unit that is used for a nonresidential purpose, including an educational, health care, retail, restaurant, banquet space, or event center purpose or another similar use;
2. a bed and breakfast; or
3. a hotel/residence hotel.

Residential Zoning Districts: Includes all Boone County zoning districts for which Short Term Rentals are a permitted use or conditional use.

Section 3. Short Term Rental Registration Requirements and Permits

No person shall hereafter advertise, offer to rent or rent, lease, sublease, license, or sublicense a residential property within the unincorporated areas of Boone County as a Short Term Rental until an application has been properly made and a permit obtained from the county. STR owners shall obtain and keep in force a Boone County Short Term Rental Permit ("Permit") under the following terms and conditions:

- a) Applications for the Permit shall be submitted to the Boone County Occupational License Office. In zoning districts where SRT is identified as a conditional use, an application shall be submitted to the Occupational License prior to applying for a Conditional Use Permit through the Boone County Board of Adjustment and Zoning Appeals. Applications for the Permit will be considered in the order in which they are received by the Occupational License Office. Failure to obtain a Conditional Use Permit from the Boone County Board of Adjustment and Zoning Appeals, within 90 days of the permit application, shall invalidate the application for the permit.

Application forms shall require, but not be limited to, the following information:

- 1) Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the owner of the Short Term Rental property.
 - 2) Verification that the applicant is the owner.
 - 3) Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the designated Local Emergency Contact.
 - 4) The maximum number of occupants requested for the dwelling unit or sleeping room in accordance with this Ordinance and consistent with the number permitted by zoning regulations.
 - 5) A submission of a sketch floor plan of the dwelling with dimensioned room layout.
 - 6) Self-Safety Inspection Form indicating all proper safety devices are in place and in good working order.
 - 7) Site Plan/Survey of the property indicating maximum number of vehicles that can be legally parked on the property, without encroaching onto street, sidewalks or alleys; other public rights-of-way or public property.
 - 8) Applicant shall provide with the application a certificate of insurance or other valid proof of general liability insurance in an amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence which shall remain in effect at all times while engaged in the permitted activity.
 - 9) Applicant shall attest to compliance and remain in comply with all aspects of applicable provisions of the International Building Code with Kentucky Amendments (adopted edition), NFPA 1124 (National Fire Protection Association, currently adopted edition), and all other applicable state, federal, or local laws or regulations.
- b) Applicant shall obtain an occupational license from Boone County prior to being issued a Short Term Rental Permit and a valid occupational license is required for any subsequent STR renewal.
- c) The Short Term Rental Permit shall be issued for a period that coincides with the calendar year (January 1- December 31). The initially issued permit shall expire on December 31 of the year it was issued, or upon a date on which the applicant no longer qualifies as an STR Operation as defined herein. The Permit may be renewed for successive calendar year periods so long as the applicant continues to qualify for issuance of the Permit. Applications for subsequent STR permits may be filed sixty (60) days prior to December 31 of the current permit year. Applications for renewal periods shall be made to the Occupational License Office on forms approved by the county. The fee for the initial permit year, payable at the time of application, shall be \$300.00 for the calendar year, pro-rated by month for the period of January 1st to the first (1st) day of the month in which the application is received. The fee for each consecutive subsequent permit year, payable by January 1, shall be \$200.00.
- d) Upon receipt of an application for renewal of the registration, the County Administrator or other designee may deny the renewal if there is reasonable cause to believe that:
1. The Owner has violated any ordinance of the County or any state or federal law on the premises or has permitted such a violation on the premises by any other person; or
 2. There are grounds for suspension, revocation, or other registration sanction as provided in this Ordinance.
 3. The Owner fails to apply for, be issued or appropriately renew a Boone County Occupational License or timely file occupational license returns or remit appropriate payment.
- e) Any Permit issued under the provisions of this Ordinance may be revoked by the County Administrator, or their designee, upon a showing that the Permit holder has violated any of the

provisions of this Ordinance. Revocation shall be by written notice which describes the reasons for the revocation. The written notice of revocation shall be delivered to the Permit holder in person or by regular mail sent to the address listed on the application. If a Permit is revoked, and the applicant desires to contest the revocation, a hearing before the Fiscal Court may be scheduled by filing with the Occupational License Office a written request for hearing within 15 calendar days of the issuance of the revocation notice. The hearing before the Fiscal Court shall be conducted within 30 days of filing of such request.

Section 4. Self Safety Inspection Required

As part of the application process, the owner is required to perform a Short Term Rental Fire Safety Inspection and provide a Checklist for the structure.

Section 5. Restrictions on Short Term Rentals

- A. *Use.* Short Term Rentals shall only be permitted consistent with the Boone County Zoning Regulations.
- B. *External Signage.* There shall be no external on-site or off-site advertising signs or displays indicating the property is a Short Term Rental.
- C. *Non Dwelling Units.* Short Term Rentals shall not be allowed on any area not considered a primary dwelling, i.e. recreational vehicles, tents, garages, boats, etc.
- D. *Limit on occupants allowed* No more than two (2) adult guests per bedroom, plus no more than two (2) additional adults shall be allowed when renting a property as a Short Term Rental, except that:
 - 1. There shall be a maximum occupancy of no more than ten (10) persons, adult and children.
 - 2. Bedrooms under 120 square feet shall be limited to only one adult occupant.
- E. *Limits on number of vehicles.* A minimum of one (1) parking space shall be provided per guestroom or suite. All parking for a short term rental, shall be provided off-street on a paved surface and in conformity with all applicable zoning regulations.
- F. *Advertisement and contracts.* Any advertisement of the property as a Short Term Rental and all rental contracts must contain language that specifies the allowed maximum number of occupants and maximum number of vehicles.
- G. *Spacing Requirements.* The property on which the Short Term Rental is to be located shall not be closer than one thousand (1,000) feet, measured in a straight line from the nearest property line to the nearest property line on another approved short term rental.
- H. *Other restrictions.* It is unlawful:
 - 1. To operate or allow to be operated a Short Term Rental without first obtaining a Short Term Rental Permit for the property in which the rental is to occur with the unincorporated limits of the county in accordance with this Ordinance and a Boone County Occupational License;
 - 2. To advertise or offer a Short Term Rental without first obtaining a Short Term Rental Permit and Boone County Business License;
 - 3. To operate a Short Term Rental that does not comply with all applicable County and state laws and codes;
 - 4. To operate a Short Term Rental without paying the required hotel occupancy taxes;
 - 5. To fail to include a written prohibition against the use of a Short Term Rental for having activity on the premises that includes individuals who are not guests as part of the rental agreement in every advertisement, listing, or other publication offering

- the premises for rent.
6. Knowingly permit the use of the Short Term Rental for any illegal purpose or any use not permitted by Residential Zoning Regulations.

Section 6. Information Brochure

- A. *Information to be provided.* Each owner operating a Short Term Rental shall provide to guests information that includes:
 1. Owner's twenty-four 24 hour contact information and/or a local responsible party's twenty-four (24) hour contact information, if the property owner is not within the county limits when guests are renting the premises;
 2. Pertinent neighborhood information including, but not limited to, parking restrictions, restrictions on noise and amplified sound, and trash collection schedules;
 3. Information to assist guests in the case of emergencies posing threats to personal safety or damage to property, including emergency and non-emergency telephone numbers for police, fire, and emergency medical services providers and instructions for obtaining severe weather, natural, or man-made disaster alerts and updates.
 4. Policy regarding pet(s).

Section 7. Safety Features

Each Short Term Rental property shall have working smoke detectors in accordance with adopted codes and at least one working carbon monoxide detector and alarm, and one working fire extinguisher. The premises shall otherwise comply with applicable county ordinances.

Section 8. Enforcement, Civil Fine and Lien

- A. The provisions of this Ordinance may be enforced by a Boone County Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector or any sworn law enforcement officer.
- B. A notice of violation detailing the ordinance violations shall be served upon the owner of the structure either personally, by hand delivery to an adult eighteen (18) years or older at the premises or by certified mail to the address of record for purpose of payment of real estate taxes. If the whereabouts of such person is unknown and cannot be ascertained after an exercise of reasonable diligence, then an affidavit to that effect may be made and service shall then be by posting in a conspicuous place upon the involved structure and by publication pursuant to KRS Chapter 424, hereafter "publication or publication of notice."
- C. If after seven (7) days of receiving notice of a violation of this ordinance, the owner of property in unincorporated Boone County remains in non-compliance, a citation shall be issued by a Boone County Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector or any sworn law enforcement officer and notice provided to the Boone County Occupational License Office. Each day the property is not in compliance shall constitute a separate offense. In every instance where a violation of the same type occurs more than once in a 365 day period at the same premises, a citation shall be issued immediately by the Boone County Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector or any sworn law enforcement officer.
- D. **Penalty. Civil Fine** -Any person, persons, corporation or partnership who violate the provisions of this chapter shall be fined \$200 per instance. Any person, persons, corporation or partnership who violate the provisions of this chapter more than once in a 365 day period shall be fined \$500 for each subsequent violation within a 365 day period.
- E. Boone County shall possess a lien on the relevant real property for all assessed and unpaid civil fines and for all associated charges and fees.

- F. An appeal of any citation issued under this chapter may be made to the Boone County District Court within thirty (30) days of the date the citation is issued. The appeal shall be initiated by the filing of a complaint and copy of the citation in the same manner as any civil action under the Kentucky Rules of Civil Procedure.

SECTION TWO

If any section or part of any section or any provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid by a Court of appropriate jurisdiction, for any reason, such declaration shall not invalidate, or adversely affect, the remainder of this Ordinance. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of said conflict.

SECTION THREE

This Ordinance shall be in effect and in full force from and after its passage, publication and adoption, according to law.

First Reading- the 26 day of August, 2021

Second Reading - the _____ day of September, 2021

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021. Yes ___ No ___

**GARY W. MOORE, Judge/Executive
Boone County Fiscal Court**

Attest:

**JEFFREY S. EARLYWINE,
Acting Fiscal Court Clerk**