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Airbnb's popularity has grown rapidly over the years. It creates opportunities for people to earn extra money renting out their home, while others can enjoy the benefits of traveling to new places and pay lower costs for lodging.

Spring Valley Lake's Public Safety team has logged several complaints about Airbnb stays recently. Hosts and renters alike should be aware of all the rules set by Airbnb, and the county you live in, before signing up.

Airbnb stays are considered short term rentals. According to San Bernardino County's website, the definition of a shortterm rental is:

"A residential dwelling unit or portion thereof rented or otherwise used for transient occupancy, as defined in County Code § 14.0203. A short-term residential unit may not be used for a wedding, wedding reception, business meeting or conference, a fraternity party, or any other similar gathering. Transient occupancy generally means occupancy for 30 consecutive calendar days or less."

Airbnb's website also provides some information regarding the rules in San Bernardino County. It states:

"The application fee is \$599, and the renewal fee is \$359. You're required to renew every 2 years. San Bernardino conducts a property inspection as part of both the initial registration and renewal process. Note: If you're buying or selling a property that already has a permit, the new owner can transfer it by contacting the County within 30 days of taking the title.

Don't operate or rent without a permit, even if you've already started the application process. The County imposes a \$430 Surrounding Property Owner Notification Fine to anyone who operates a shortterm rental without a permit.

San Bernardino County imposes a 7% Transient Occupancy Tax on amounts paid by guests for occupancies that last 30 or fewer days. You'll need to apply for a Transient Occupancy Registration Certificate to collect the tax. The county tax office mails a form to every active certificate holder each quarter."

The pandemic and social distancing has made it necessary for Airbnb to adapt their rules to accommodate safe social distancing practices. An alert was posted on August 16 stating, "a global

ban on all parties and events at Airbnb listings, including a cap on occupancy at 16. This party ban applies to all future bookings on Airbnb, and it will remain in effect indefinitely, until further notice."

Airbnb will not allow any parties or events that were not approved by the host, open invitation parties or unauthorized parties/ events. Check out the Airbnb website for more details.

According to Airbnb, neighbors of rentals have rights and are taken very seriously.

"When a property that's listed on Airbnb is causing a disturbance—whether that's excessive noise, a disruptive party, a gathering of more than 16 members of the local community can report it at Neighborhood Support, which provides a link to local emergency services. They'll also have access to the Neighborhood Support team phone number, where they can report a party that's still in progress. Once an issue is reported, Airbnb will send a confirmation email explaining what happens next."

Airbnb's Neighborhood Support team can be called at +1 (855) 635-7754. We also encourage our community members to continue to contact our Public Safety department with any issues or concerns you may have with short term rentals in our community (760) 245-6400.



