



Florence County Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE

06/09/2022

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TOURIST ROOMING HOUSE INSPECTIONS

[Florence, WI]-

Many people love to get away from the hustle and bustle of the cities and enjoy the beauty of Florence County, especially in the summer. The rise in summer tourism also leads to a rise in the need for lodging facilities- such as hotels, cabins, cottages, and more. With how easy vacation rental sites such as Airbnb have made it to rent out summer homes or family cabins, many property owners are taking advantage of this seasonal opportunity.

However, it is important to know that the Wisconsin Department of Trade, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) requires all lodging facilities in the state to have a permit. Homes rented for a short period of time are called Tourist Rooming Houses. A Tourist Rooming House (TRH) is defined by DATCP as all lodging places and tourist cabins and cottages, other than hotels and motels, in which sleeping accommodations are offered for pay to tourists or transients. It does not include private boarding or rooming houses not accommodating tourists or transients, or bed and breakfast establishments. A bed and breakfast has specific requirements which can be explained by the health department.

DATCP defines a tourist or transient as a person who travels to a location away from his or her permanent address for a short period of time for vacation, pleasure, recreation, culture, business or employment. In the definition for tourists or transients, a person has to be away from his or her permanent address. If it is rented to a tourist or transient, it will require a license.

Begin the process by contacting the Florence County Health Department at 715-528-4837 and the Zoning Office. The department will assist owners in the process and help determine the best license for their lodging operation. The Registered Sanitarian is the inspector responsible for approving the lodging license. The inspection assures the lodging operation meets health and safety requirements. Applications are available at the Florence County Health Department's website at www.florencewipublichealth.com or by calling 715-528-4837. The Florence County Health Department is located in the the Courthouse at 501 Lake Avenue or visit our website at <http://www.florencecountywi.com/>.

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