

**SADSBURY TOWNSHIP
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 214-2024

AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW PERSONS OWNING RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP TO OPERATE SHORT-TERM RENTALS; TO ADD DEFINITIONS CONCERNING SHORT-TERM RENTALS; TO INSTITUTE AND CONTINUE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS; TO ADD STANDARDS FOR USE OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS; TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSING FEES PAYABLE TO THE TOWNSHIP UPON APPLICATION AND RENEWAL; TO PROVIDE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE; TO ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE; TO PROVIDE FOR APPEALS FROM THE DECISION OF AN ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

Whereas, the Supervisors of Sadsbury Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, have determined that there is a need for the Short-Term Rental utilization of dwellings within the Township and also a need for regulation of Short-Term Rentals; and,

Whereas, the Supervisors of Sadsbury Township, in an effort to provide for the public health, safety and welfare of the residents and persons visiting Sadsbury Township have determined that the Township should adopt an Ordinance which will permit, but also regulate the establishment of Short-Term Rentals within the boundaries of Sadsbury Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania; and,

Whereas, the Supervisors of Sadsbury Township do hereby enact, ordain and resolve the following Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance of Sadsbury Township.

SECTION 1 – Scope

The provisions of this Section shall apply to all residential dwelling units and conversions of nonresidential structures to residential dwellings within the Township. Short-Term Rentals shall only be permitted to be operated in zoning districts as specified in the Sadsbury Township Zoning Ordinance. The Owner of the subject property shall be responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance and the failure of any owner, Person in Charge, or renting occupants to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed noncompliance by the Owner. This Ordinance shall not apply to a hotel/motel, bed and breakfast, or group home.

SECTION 2 – Definitions Specifically Applicable to this Ordinance

For the purposes of this Ordinance, words and terms used herein shall be interpreted as follows:

ANNUAL TERM – shall mean January 1st to December 31st, inclusively, of the same calendar year.

BEDROOM – A room or space designed to be used for sleeping purposes with two means of egress (one of which may be a window acceptable under the building code), and in close proximity to a bathroom. Space used for eating, cooking, bathrooms, toilet rooms, closets, halls, storage or utility rooms and similar uses are not considered Bedrooms. Space used or intended for general and informal everyday use such as a living room, den, and sitting room or similar is not to be considered a Bedroom.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – The Supervisors of Sadsbury Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania

DAY GUEST OR GUEST – A visitor to the STR property, but not constituting an occupant.

DWELLING – A dwelling as defined by the Sadsbury Township Zoning Ordinance

OCCUPANT - Person staying at the STR overnight. A person located on the STR premises shall be deemed an occupant unless established otherwise by the Owner, Person in Charge or Tenant.

OWNER – Person, Corporation or LLC having legal or equitable ownership of the STR property. If there is more than one such person, then Owner shall mean each such person, individually and jointly.

PERSON IN CHARGE – A person(s) or agent with authority to represent the Owner for purposes of contact and communication regarding the Owner’s STR. A Person in Charge (including the Owner if the Owner is also the Person in Charge) must reside or have an office in such place that they can reach the STR property within one hour and be able to act as the legal agent for the Owner. The township must be notified, in writing, within fourteen days if there is a change in the identity of the Person in Charge.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL (STR) – Any dwelling unit or part thereof or managed by a person, firm or corporation which is used for overnight lodging and rented or leased for periods of less than 30 consecutive days.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL LICENSE – Permission granted by Sadsbury Township to utilize a Dwelling for Short-Term Rental Use.

TENANT – The primary individual who entered into an oral or written agreement with the Owner or Owner’s Agent for the temporary use of the STR for 30 consecutive calendar days or less. The tenant must be at least 21 years of age.

SECTION 3 – License Required

No owner of any property in Sadsbury Township shall operate a Short-Term Rental in the Township without first obtaining a Short-Term Rental License from the Township. Operation of a Short-Term Rental without such Short-Term Rental License is a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4 – License Requirements

- A. Short-Term Rental License applications shall contain all of the following information:
- (1) The name, address, email and 24-hour telephone number of the owner.
 - (2) The name, address, email and 24-hour telephone number of the Person in Charge if different from the Owner. A local person in charge shall have written authorization to accept service of process for the owner.
 - (3) If the building is a multi-unit structure, the total number of dwelling units in the structure and the number of dwelling units being used as Short-Term Rentals, as well as the specific location of the STRs.
 - (4) Copies of current Crawford County Hotel Room Excise Tax Certificate and current Pennsylvania Sales and Use Tax Permit.
 - (5) Signatures of both the owner and the local Person in Charge, if applicable.
 - (6) Trespass waiver signed by the owner allowing access to the property for the Township for the purpose of inspection to verify compliance with this Ordinance.
 - (7) Proof of weekly trash removal service.
- B. A Short-Term Rental License shall be issued only to the Owners of the Short-Term Rental property.
- (1) A separate Short-Term Rental License is required for each Dwelling; for Two-Family Duplex or Multi-Family Dwellings, a separate License shall be required for each Dwelling Unit being rented as a Short-Term Rental.
 - (2) A Short-Term Rental License is effective for a period of one Annual Term, or until any of the conditions of the Short-Term Rental which are governed by this Section are changed, whichever shall first occur. A Short-Term Rental License must be renewed annually and also when any of the conditions of the Short-Term Rental which are governed by this Section are changed.
 - (3) The Township will prescribe forms and procedures for the processing of License Applications under this Ordinance.
 - (4) Licenses are non-transferrable. If ownership of a STR changes, the new Owner(s) must complete a new license application form before renting out any part of the dwelling for a short-term rental and must pay the annual fee.

SECTION 5 – Short-Term Rental Standards

- A. Occupancy of a Short-Term Rental shall be limited to no more than:
 - (1) two persons per bedroom plus four additional persons, or
 - (2) a maximum of sixteen (16) occupants, whichever is less.
- B. The maximum number of day guests allowed at any one time, in addition to the occupants, shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the maximum permitted occupancy of the Short-Term Rental. Ex: 10 occupants x 75% = 7.5 day guests
- C. Outdoor parking for tenants, occupants, and day guests shall be limited to available parking areas on the Short-Term Rental property. In no event shall parking for Short-Term Rental tenants, occupants and day guests include spaces within any public street right-of-way.
- D. A Short-Term Rental Property shall not have any outside appearance indicating a change of use from the surrounding residential uses.
- E. Neither Short-Term Rental tenants, occupants nor guests shall engage in disorderly conduct nor disturb the peace and quiet of any nearby neighborhood or person by loud, unusual or excessive noise, by tumultuous or offensive conduct, public indecency, threatening, traducing, quarreling, challenging to fight, or fighting, or creating a dangerous or physically offensive condition.
- F. The owner, or person in charge, shall use best efforts to assure that the tenants, occupants or guests of the Short-Term Rental do not create unreasonable noise or disturbances, engage in disorderly conduct, or otherwise violate provisions of any township ordinance or any state law pertaining to noise or disorderly conduct including, but not limited to, notifying the occupants of the rules regarding Short-Term Rentals and responding when notified that occupants are violating laws, ordinances or regulations regarding their occupancy.
- G. The owner, or person in charge, shall upon notification that tenants, occupants or guests of the Short-Term Rental have created unreasonable noise or disturbances, engaged in disorderly conduct or otherwise violated provision of any Sadsbury Township Ordinance or state law pertaining to noise or disorderly conduct, promptly use best efforts to prevent a recurrence of such conduct by those tenants, occupants or guests.
- H. Overnight occupancy of recreational vehicles, camper trailers and tents at the property where the Short-Term Rental is located shall not be allowed. Outdoor overnight sleeping of occupants or guests of the Short-Term Rental is prohibited.
- I. All Short-Term Rentals shall have a clearly visible and legible notice posted within the dwelling unit on or adjacent to the front door containing the following information:

- (1) The name of the owner of the unit or the Person in Charge and a telephone number at which that party can be reached on a 24-hour basis.
- (2) The 911 address of the property.
- (3) The maximum number of occupants permitted to stay in the dwelling unit and the maximum number of day guests permitted at any one time.
- (4) The maximum number of all vehicles allowed to be on the property and the requirement that all guest parking must be parked in the available parking areas on the property and not in or along any private, community or public street right-of-way.
- (5) The trash pick-up day and notification that trash and refuse shall not be left or stored on the exterior of the property.

J. All Short-Term Rentals shall be equipped with the following:

- (1) Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor and in good working order;
- (2) GFI outlets for outlets located per Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code requirements;
- (3) Aluminum or metal exhaust from dryer;
- (4) Fire extinguisher in kitchen conspicuously located;
- (5) Stairs and handrails (indoor and outdoor) in good condition;
- (6) Swimming pools, hot tubs and spas must meet the barrier requirements as indicated in the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code.

SECTION 6 – Fees, Term and Renewal

- A. Short-Term Rental fees, payable to Sadsbury Township upon the filing of a Short-Term Rental License application, shall be in such amount as may be established by resolution duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors.
- B. Any Short-Term Rental License is valid for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year and must be renewed annually. Short-Term Rental License renewal fees, payable to Sadsbury Township upon the filing of a Short-Term Rental License renewal application, shall be in such amount as may be established by resolution duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors.
- C. Short-Term Rental License renewal applications shall contain information regarding any changes from the immediately preceding application with respect to matters governed by this Ordinance.

SECTION 7 – Enforcement Officer

- A. The issuance of a Short-Term Rental License is not a warranty that the premises is lawful, safe, habitable, or in compliance with this Ordinance or any other Township, State or Federal regulations.
- B. If there is reason to believe that any provision of this Ordinance is being violated, the Board of Supervisors may or may cause, through an authorized representative of the Township, entry onto premises for the purpose of inspection of any and all premises, properties, buildings and/or structures located within the Township for ascertaining the existence of violations. In those matters where the nature of an alleged violation is such that an inspection of the interior of a building or structure is necessitated, prior arrangements must be made with the owner or his agent to secure access thereof.

SECTION 8 – Marketing

The marketing of a Short-Term Rental in which the advertised occupancy exceeds the maximum occupancy requirements permitted by this Ordinance, or which promotes any other activity which is prohibited by this Ordinance, shall be a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9 – Notice of Violation

If it appears that a violation of this Ordinance exists or has occurred, the Township shall send a written Notice of Violation to the owner or Person in Charge by personal delivery or United States First Class and Certified Mail. The Enforcement Notice shall identify the premises which is the subject of the violation, enumerate the conditions which constitute the violation, cite the specific paragraph(s) of this Ordinance which are violated, indicate the action required to correct the violation, and provide a time frame to correct the violation.

SECTION 10 – Nuisance

In the interest of promoting the public health, safety and welfare, and minimizing the burden on Township and community services and impacts on residential neighborhoods posed by Short-Term Rentals, a violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance is declared to be a public nuisance.

SECTION 11 – Violations and Penalties

- A. This Ordinance shall be enforced by action brought before a Magisterial District Judge in the same manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure. Any person, partnership, corporation or other entity who or which violates or permits a violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding, pay a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 per violation, plus all court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by Sadsbury Township in the enforcement proceedings, and/or be imprisoned to the extent allowed by law for the punishment of summary

offenses. Each day or portion thereof that a violation exists or continues shall constitute a separate violation. Further, the appropriate officers or agents of Sadsbury Township are hereby authorized to seek equitable relief, including injunction to enforce compliance with this Ordinance. All fines, penalties, costs and reasonable attorney's fees collected for the violation of this Ordinance shall be paid to Sadsbury Township for its general use.

- B. In addition to, but not in limitation of, the provisions of Subsection the Township may either revoke or deny an application to renew, a Short-Term Rental License for three (3) uncured or repeated violations of this Chapter in any rolling twelve (12) calendar month period. The revocation or denial to renew a Short-Term Rental License shall continue for six (6) months for the first set of three (3) uncured or repeated violations, and continue for one (1) year for any subsequent sets of violations.

SECTION 12 – Owners Severally Responsible

If the premises are owned by more than one owner, each owner shall severally be subject to prosecution for a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 13 – Appeals

- A. Appeals of a determination by the Township under this Ordinance to deny any application for, or to renew, a Short-Term Rental License, or to revoke a Short-Term Rental License, shall be filed with the Board of Supervisors within thirty (30) days of the date of the denial of application or revocation of License. Appeal shall be processed as follows:
 - (1) All appeals shall be in writing and signed by the Appellant on forms prescribed by the Township, and shall be accompanied by a fee, the amount of which shall be established by the Board of Supervisors, which may include notice and advertising costs, and necessary administrative overhead in relation to the hearing.
 - (2) Each appeal shall fully set forth the determination appealed from, a detailed reason or basis for the appeal, and the relief sought. Every appeal shall refer to the specific provision of the Ordinance or the circumstances of the case
- B. Hearings – The Board of Supervisors shall conduct hearings and make decisions pursuant to the Act of December 2, 1968 (P.L. 1133, No. 353), known as the “Local Agency Law”, and in accordance with the following requirements:
 - (1) Written notice shall be given to the Appellant, and to any person who has made timely request for same. Written notices shall be given at such time and in such manner as shall be prescribed by rules of the Board of Supervisors, but not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing.

- (2) The hearing shall be held within 60 days from the date the appeal is filed, unless the Appellant has agreed in writing to an extension of time.
- (3) The hearings shall be conducted by the Board of Supervisors. The decision or, where no decision is called for, the findings shall be in writing by the Board of Supervisors within forty-five (45) days after the conclusion of the hearing, unless the Appellant has agreed in writing to an extension of time, and shall be communicated to the Appellant and any other parties who have entered their written appearance and requested a copy of the decisions, at the addresses provided by them either by personal delivery or by United States First Class Mail postage prepaid.
- (4) The Chairman or Acting Chairman of the Board presiding shall have power to administer oaths and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant documents and papers, including witnesses and documents requested by parties.
- (5) The parties shall have the right to be represented by counsel and shall be afforded the opportunity to respond and present evidence and argument and cross-examine adverse witnesses on all relevant issues.
- (6) Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded.
- (7) The Board of Supervisors may, but is not required to, make a stenographic record of the proceedings. In the event a stenographic record of the proceedings is not provided by the Board of Supervisors, a stenographic record shall be made and kept at the request of any party agreeing to pay the costs thereof. Any party or other person desiring a copy of the stenographic record shall order the copy directly from the stenographer who prepared the same and shall pay the cost imposed by the stenographer for the copy directly to the stenographer.
- (8) The Board of Supervisors shall not communicate, directly or indirectly, with any party or any party's representatives in connection with any issue involved except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate; shall not take notice of any communication, reports, staff memoranda, or other materials, except advice from their solicitor, unless the parties are afforded an opportunity to contest the material so noticed; and shall not inspect the site or its surroundings after the commencement of hearings with any party or any party's representative unless all parties are given opportunity to be present.

SECTION 14 – Repealer

All Ordinance and parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 15 – Severability

Should any sentence, clause, section, or part of this Ordinance be declared by appropriate authority to be unlawful or unconstitutional, all other terms, conditions, and provisions in part hereof, shall continue in full force and effect and shall not effect or impair any of the remaining sections of this Ordinance

SECTION 16 – Effective Date


This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after enactment.

DULY ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 10th day of December, 2024 by the Board of Supervisors of Sadsbury Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

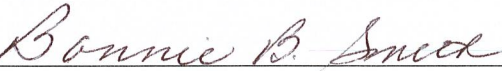
Sadsbury Township Board of Supervisors



Kevin R. VanHonk, Chairman

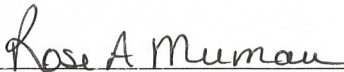


Lyle E. Hoovler, Vice-Chairman



Bonnie B. Smith, Supervisor

ATTEST:



Rose A. Mumau, Secretary