



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

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FROM: ANDREA LANE, MANAGER OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

Subject: Short-Term Accommodation Business Licence Requirements

[Following By-Law 15 of 2020](#), property owners and operators are reminded that they are required to apply for and receive a Short-Term Accommodation (STA) Business License and register for the [Municipal Accommodation Tax \(MAT\)](#) collection in order to be a legally compliant operator in the City of Sarnia. Current operators must be registered by December 31, 2020.

A short-term accommodation is all or part of a dwelling unit rented out for less than 30 consecutive days in exchange for payment. This includes bed and breakfasts (B&Bs) but excludes hotels and motels. It also excludes other accommodations where there is no payment.

Operators are only allowed to rent their principal residence on a short-term basis. A principal residence is the residence where they live and the address used for bills, identification, taxes and insurance.

The City has created an online [Guide to Success](#) and the Application for the Short-Term Accommodation Business Licence is available online: <https://www.sarnia.ca/short-term-accommodations/>.

All operators utilizing a residentially zoned property to offer short-term accommodations to the traveling public, are required to be compliant with the Bed & Breakfast standards in the zoning by-law. A review of these standards will be completed as part of the Business License application process, as will be a mandatory Fire inspection to ensure all accommodations are safe.

The zoning by-law standards for Short-Term Accommodations were appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) and as such, these standards are not in effect. The existing [Bed and Breakfast zoning standards](#) remain in effect for residentially zoned property.

For further information, please contact:

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