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Unincorporated McIntosh County vacation rental checklist

McIntosh County, Georgia | Rules checked November 6, 2026

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We found no short-term rental permit in McIntosh County's code. Stays outside Darien owe 8% sales tax, the county's 5% hotel-motel tax, and the $5 state fee.

Licensing steps

STATE OF GEORGIA

- [ ] **Know what the platform collects**
  Airbnb collects state and local sales tax, the $5-a-night state hotel-motel fee, and the local hotel-motel tax on its Georgia bookings. Ask any other platform what it collects, and keep records either way.
- [ ] **Register for direct bookings**
  If guests book and pay you directly, register for sales tax with the Georgia Tax Center and file the local hotel-motel tax with your city or county. If your city or county requires a business license or occupation tax for the rental, the DOR treats you as an innkeeper and you also owe the $5 state fee on direct bookings.
  Georgia Tax Center: https://gtc.dor.ga.gov/
- [ ] **Check your city or county**
  Most of the rules are local: short-term rental permits, business licenses (occupation tax), zoning limits, and caps. Some cities ban rentals in residential zones. Pick your area.

MCINTOSH COUNTY, GEORGIA

- [ ] **Then your city or area**
  Permits, zoning, and the hotel-motel tax are set by each city, and by the county outside city limits. Pick your area.

MCINTOSH COUNTY (UNINCORPORATED AREAS)

- [ ] **Taxes on each stay**
  Stays here owe 8% sales tax, the local hotel-motel tax, and the $5-a-night state fee. Airbnb collects all three on its bookings. For direct bookings, file sales tax (and the $5 fee, if you need a local license) with the Georgia Tax Center. The county's hotel-motel tax is 5%; file it with McIntosh County for direct bookings.
- [ ] **Ask about zoning and a business license**
  Ask McIntosh County whether zoning allows a short-term rental at your address and whether you need an occupation tax certificate. On Sapelo Island, check any community or land rules too.

Official sources

Airbnb: Occupancy tax collection and remittance by Airbnb in Georgia. https://www.airbnb.com/help/article/2745

Georgia Department of Revenue: Rule 560-13-2-.01 amendment notice (2025)-
. https://dor.georgia.gov/document/document/notice-fet-2025-01-rule-560-13-2-01-state-hotel-motel-feepdf/download

McIntosh County (Municode): Code section.
https://library.municode.com/ga/mcintosh_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOGEOR_CH38TA_ARTIVEXTA_S38-91LE