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Tifton vacation rental checklist

Tift County, Georgia | Rules checked November 6, 2026

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Tifton's hotel-motel tax ordinance covers short-term rentals (30 days or less), including homes listed on Airbnb or VRBO. Owners must register with the city clerk and list the platforms they use. Stays owe 8% sales tax and the city's 7% hotel-motel tax.

> The ordinance treats a platform like Airbnb as an innkeeper that collects the tax, but you still register your rental with the city.

> The tax ordinance applies "within the special district"; ask the city whether your address is inside it.

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.

TIFT COUNTY, GEORGIA

- [ ] **Then your city or area**
  Pick your area.

CITY OF TIFTON

- [ ] **Register with the city clerk**
  Give the name you rent under, the address of each rental, and the platforms (such as Airbnb or VRBO) you list on. File an amendment within 15 days if you change platforms or the number or location of your rentals.
- [ ] **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. Tifton's 7% hotel-motel tax return is due to the city finance director by the 20th of the next month for bookings the platform doesn't collect.
- [ ] **Ask about zoning and a business license**
  Ask the City of Tifton whether zoning allows a short-term rental at your address and whether you need a business license (occupation tax certificate). Check your HOA rules too.

Who to contact

City of Tifton: 229-382-6231

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

City of Tifton (Municode): Code section.
https://library.municode.com/ga/tifton/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH74TA_ARTVHOOCTA

City of Tifton (Municode): Code of ordinances. https://library.municode.com/ga/tifton/codes/code_of_ordinances