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Unincorporated Stanly County vacation rental checklist

Stanly County, North Carolina | Rules checked November 6, 2026

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In Stanly County's zoning area, every short-term rental needs a county STR permit, issued once for the fee the county charges for a change of use ($50 on its fee schedule). Guests are capped at 2 per bedroom and 15 per house, and events aren't allowed. Stays pay 7% sales tax plus local occupancy tax.

> The application has a change-of-ownership option, so a new owner should file with the county after buying.

> Towns such as Albemarle, Badin, New London, and Norwood have their own zoning; check with the town if you're inside its limits.

Licensing steps

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

- [ ] **Know who owes the tax**
  Whoever collects the rent reports the sales and occupancy tax: the platform, your rental agency, or you. Airbnb collects state and county sales tax and all local occupancy taxes on its bookings. If guests pay you directly, register with the Department of Revenue for sales tax and with your county or town for occupancy tax.
  NCDOR business registration: https://www.ncdor.gov/taxes-forms/business-registration

- [ ] **Use a written vacation rental agreement**
  The Vacation Rental Act covers owners and agents renting for vacation stays under 90 days. Have the guest accept a written agreement with the required notices, hold advance payments in a trust account, and keep the home fit and habitable with working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

- [ ] **Check your zoning**
  Towns can't require you to register a rental, but they can limit short-term rentals to certain zoning districts, require a zoning permit, and set parking, trash, and safety standards. Pick your area for the local rules.

STANLY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

- [ ] **Then your city or area**
  Zoning rules for short-term rentals are set by each city or town, and by the county outside town limits. Pick your area.

STANLY COUNTY (UNINCORPORATED AREAS)

- [ ] **Notify your neighbors**
  Send every owner within 100 feet a notice with the rental's address, your contact, your local responsible party (if you don't live in Stanly County), and the maximum occupancy. Sign a sworn statement listing who you notified.

- [ ] **Apply to the Planning Department**
  Submit the application with a site plan showing bedrooms and parking, proof of liability insurance that covers renters, proof of ownership, the occupancy acknowledgment, and the fee.
  STR application (PDF): https://www.stanlycountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/491/Short-Term-Rental-Application-PDF

- [ ] **Taxes on each stay**
  Stays under 90 days owe 7% sales tax plus the local occupancy tax. Airbnb collects both on its bookings. If guests pay you directly, file sales tax with the Department of Revenue. For direct bookings, file the county occupancy tax with the Stanly County Finance Department; ask it for the current rate and return.

House rules for guests

One party at a time: No separate simultaneous rentals

Events: Not allowed
No weddings, receptions, or large gatherings.

Trash: All trash in carts; collection days posted

Posting: Maximum guests posted and in every listing

Official sources

UNC School of Government: Occupancy taxes and Airbnb. https://www.sog.unc.edu/node/374926

North Carolina General Assembly: Vacation Rental Act (G.S. Chapter 42A)-
. https://ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_42A.html

UNC School of Government: Short-term rental regulations after Schroeder-
. https://www.sog.unc.edu/blogs/coates-canons/short-term-rental-regulations-after-schroeder-0

Stanly County Planning and Zoning: Zoning Ordinance, Section 423 Short Term Rentals (October 5, 2026)-
. https://www.stanlycountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1556/Zoning-Ordinance---10052026-

Stanly County Planning Department: Residential short term rental application-
. https://www.stanlycountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/491/Short-Term-Rental-Application-PDF

Airbnb: Occupancy tax collection and remittance by Airbnb in North Carolina. https://www.airbnb.com/help/article/2320

Stanly County Planning and Zoning: Planning fee schedule. https://www.stanlycountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/332/Fee-Schedule-PDF