



Position Statement on Unlicensed Transient Accommodations

Updated October 2016

Unlicensed, independent operators of all kinds are a contentious issue. The ubiquitous nature of the internet makes marketing these quasi-legal services easy, but it doesn't make them safe.

The Washington Bed & Breakfast Guild (WBBG) is a not-for-profit trade organization that supports its members with marketing, education, networking, and governmental representation. We believe that B&B's offer an attractive alternative for guests seeking unique and authentic lodging. All member inns are regularly inspected for quality, regulatory compliance, good business practices, and appropriate licensing. Each member must meet all of WBBG's quality assurance standards to maintain membership.

The Guild understands that a bad experience at *any* of our member businesses reflects poorly on *all* members of WBBG. Similarly, a bad experience in any transient accommodation in the state can raise questions about public safety and have a chilling effect on tourist and business travel. For that reason, the state, counties, and municipalities all have regulations that govern the operation of transient accommodations within their jurisdiction. Those regulations, in part:

- Require safety features that are not required in residences,
- Set standards for sanitary operation of kitchens and laundries,
- Set standards for service and cleanliness of guest rooms,
- Establish appropriate insurance requirements to ensure that guests can be compensated if they suffer a loss or damage as a result of their stay,
- Establish the fees and taxes that businesses need to collect and pay as their fair-share support of the government.

WBBG has developed member standards and encourages enforcement of reasonable and clear regulations as a means of normalizing the safety of our facilities, the quality of guest experience, and the payment of business, lodging and sales taxes in Washington State. In this regard, **all** accommodations being offered to the public for a fee should be held accountable for compliance with all applicable regulations.

Washington Bed & Breakfast Guild Board of Directors

October 4, 2016