



RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Richard Roundtree

Law Enforcement Center

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Per your request,

Official Stance on the Inn Keeper / Landlord enforcement policy:

As an "Inn Keeper", any guest may be asked to leave the property after the contractual agreed-upon time and date. Failure to do so risks arrest under the Criminal Trespass statute. That warrant process must be initiated by a representative of the "Inn Keeper". As a "Landlord", the tenant must be removed through a formal dispossession hearing (eviction process). In an effort to help the Inn Keepers and until the original court makes a decision, the Inn Keepers should add an addendum to their contracts, stipulating an Inn Keeper/Guest relationship is agreed upon. The agreement will be signed or initialed by the guest (s) agreeing to the relationship. Further, those guests checked in under this relationship should only be given a one-week rental that will require check out at the end of the agreed-upon date. The guests should then sign a new contract if they wish to stay an additional week.

Admittedly, following this guide, if the Inn Keepers allow guests to stay uninterrupted for an extended time, they risk establishing a change in the relationship. Until the court clarifies this distinction, we will see it as an Inn Keeper/Guest relationship and proceed with helping the Inn Keepers by asking guests who overstay their welcome to leave the property. Failure to do so risks arrest under the Criminal Trespass statute. We will not commit anyone to jail until a warrant has been issued or other charges have been committed in our presence.

-Sheriff Richard Roundtree