

CHAPTER 14

HOTELS, ROOMING HOUSES AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS

14-1 "Rooming House" Defined

For the purposes of this chapter, "rooming house" shall mean any building used for the purpose of receiving and lodging transient persons, or persons for temporary stay, and persons for permanent stay, whether such building be denominated a rooming house, hotel, lodging house, motel or any other name. It is provided, however, that no part of a building, used for a separate business, and in no way connected with rooms used for a rooming house, shall be considered a part of a rooming house contemplated in this chapter.

(R.O. 1937, § 384.)

14-7 Register and Supplementary List

All rooming house keepers shall be required to keep a register, in which shall be entered the true names of all parties lodging at such rooming house, together with the number of rooms occupied by such parties, which names shall be placed on the register by the persons so staying or lodging at such rooming house before occupying any room therein; provided, that where a person is unable to write, the rooming house keeper shall cause the name to be entered thereon before such person shall be permitted to occupy any room or place in such rooming house. No rooming house keeper shall permit the occupancy of any place or room upon the premises under his control unless the names of the occupants shall be so entered upon such register. No person shall enter upon such register a false or fictitious name, or partially false or fictitious name; provided, that where the rooming house keeper or his agent has entered such name upon such register under the provisions of this section, and the entering of such name shall prove to be false or fictitious, it may be shown in defense that such rooming house keeper or the agent thereof, did not knowingly enter the same as being false or fictitious. Only one registration shall be required of a guest during any one continuous stay, but all rooming house keepers shall be required to keep and maintain, in addition to such register, a supplementary list, on which shall be shown and indicated the names of all persons occupying rooms in such rooming house on each day, and the rooms occupied by them respectively, together with the dates of arrival of such guests and of registration in the register. On each day the rooming house keeper shall have on hand a complete and correct supplementary list which, in conjunction with the registrations of such day shall show the names of all occupants of rooms on such day and the rooms occupied by them respectively. The person in charge of such rooming house shall exhibit such register and supplementary list to any police officer of the city at any time, upon demand.

(R.O. 1937, § 386.)

14-9 Locking of Doors Leading to Outside from Upstairs Floors

It is unlawful for any person in a rooming house in the city, having any sleeping room situated above the first floor, which room is entered by a hallway and stairs, to lock, or permit to be locked, any door leading from such hallway or stairs to the outside of the building.

It shall be the duty of every person conducting a rooming house, having any sleeping room above the first floor, which room is entered by a hallway and stairs, and the duty of his or her agent, servant or employee, in charge thereof, to keep unlocked at all times all doors leading from such hallway or stairs to the outside of the building.

In all prosecutions under this section, it shall be prima facie evidence of the defendant's guilt that he or she was the proprietor of the rooming house in question, or in charge thereof, and that a door was locked in violation of this section.

(R.O. 1937, §§ 393, 394, 396.)