

Sec. 5.1.48 - Homestays.

Each homestay is subject to the following regulations:

- a. *Residency.* The owner of the parcel on which a homestay is located, must reside on the subject parcel for a minimum of 180 days in a calendar year.
- b. *Notice.* The owner of a parcel conducting a homestay use must provide the name, telephone number, and emergency contact information of the owner and other designated responsible agent to abutting parcel owners on an annual basis. The owner must retain and provide a copy of the notice to the Zoning Administrator within five business days upon request.
- c. *Parking.* In addition to the parking required for a single-family dwelling, the number of off-street parking spaces required by County Code § 18-4.12.6 must be provided on-site and no alternatives to parking in § 18-4.12.8 may be authorized.
- d. *Information and sketch plan to be submitted with request for zoning clearance.* The following documents must be submitted to the zoning administrator with each request for a zoning clearance under County Code § 18-31.5:
 1. *Information.* Information pertaining to the following: (i) the proposed use; (ii) the maximum number of guest rooms; (iii) the provision of authorized on-site parking; (iv) the location, height and lumens of outdoor lighting; and (v) two forms of verification of the permanent residency of an owner. Acceptable proof of permanent residence includes: driver's license, voter registration card, U.S. passport, or other document(s) that the zoning administrator determines provide equivalent proof of permanent residence at the subject parcel.
 2. *Sketch plan.* A schematic drawing of the premises with notes in a form and of a scale approved by the zoning administrator depicting: (i) all structures that would be used for the homestay; (ii) the locations of all guest rooms; and (iii) how access, on-site parking, outdoor lighting, signage and minimum yards will be provided in compliance with this chapter.
 3. *Signatures.* The responsible agent and the owner of the parcel must sign the application.
- e. *Building code, fire and health approvals.* Before the zoning administrator approves a zoning clearance under County Code § 18-31.5, the owner of the parcel must obtain approval of the use from the building official, the fire official, and the Virginia Department of Health.
- f. *Uses prohibited.* The following uses are not permitted as uses accessory to a homestay use: (i) restaurants; and (ii) special events serving attendees other than homestay guests.
- g. *Responsible agent.* Each applicant for a homestay must designate a responsible agent to promptly address complaints regarding the homestay use. The responsible agent must be available within 30 miles of the homestay at all times during a homestay use. The responsible agent must respond and attempt in good faith to resolve any complaint(s) within 60 minutes of being contacted. The responsible agent may initially respond to a complaint by requesting homestay guest(s) to take such action as is required to resolve the complaint. The responsible agent also may be required to visit the homestay if necessary to resolve the complaint.
- h. *Lawfully pre-existing uses.* Any bed and breakfast or tourist lodging use approved prior to August 7, 2019 may continue, subject to conditions of the prior approval(s).
- i. *Special exception.*
 - (1) Waiver or modification of this section is prohibited except to permit:
 - (i) More than two guest rooms and/or the use of an accessory structure in association with a homestay on parcels in the Residential or Planned Development districts, or Rural Areas district parcels of less than five acres;
 - (ii) Reduction in minimum applicable yards for a structure or parking used in whole or in part for a homestay.

- (iii) The use of an accessory structure built after August 7, 2019.
- (iv) Resident Manager occupancy instead of owner occupancy as required by 5.1.48(j)(1)(iv).
- (2) Special exceptions may be granted after notice to abutting property owners upon consideration of the following:
 - (i) There is no detriment to any abutting lot; and
 - (ii) There is no harm to the public health, safety, or welfare.

j. *Parcel-based regulations.*

- (1) Each homestay located on (a) a parcel of less than five acres in the Rural Areas Zoning District or (b) a parcel of any size that allows residential use in the Residential Zoning Districts or Planned Development Zoning Districts is subject to the following regulations:
 - (i) *Number of homestay uses.* Any parcel may have only one homestay use. An accessory apartment may not qualify as a dwelling unit for a homestay use.
 - (ii) *Dwelling types.* Homestay uses may only be conducted in a detached single-family dwelling.
 - (iii) *Number of guest rooms.* A maximum of two guest rooms may be permitted with each homestay use.
 - (iv) *Owner occupancy.* The owner of a parcel with a homestay use must reside on and be present at the subject parcel during the homestay use.
 - (v) *Minimum yards.* 1) In the Residential or Planned Development districts, the minimum applicable front, side, and rear yard requirements for primary structures apply to all structures used for homestays; 2) In the Rural Areas district, the minimum front, side, and rear yard shall be 125 feet from any abutting lot not under the same ownership as the homestay, for parking and for structures used in whole or in part to serve a homestay.
- (2) Each homestay located on a parcel of five acres or more in the Rural Areas district is subject to the following regulations:
 - (i) *Number of homestay uses.* Any parcel may have up to two homestay uses, provided all other applicable requirements are met.
 - (ii) *Accessory structures.* Homestay uses may be conducted in accessory structures built on or before August 7, 2019.
 - (iii) *Number of guest rooms.* A maximum of five guest rooms may be permitted with each homestay use.
 - (iv) *Required development rights, density and limitation.* Each single-family dwelling to which a homestay use is accessory must comply with the following regulations:
 - (a) on any parcel less than 21 acres in size, the single family dwelling shall be authorized by a development right as provided in County Code § 18-10.3;
 - (b) on any parcel, regardless of size, the single family dwelling shall comply with the permitted density; and
 - (c) no single family dwelling may have more than one accessory homestay use.
 - (v) *Minimum yards.* The minimum front, side, and rear yard for parking and for structures used in whole or in part to serve a homestay shall be 125 feet from any abutting lot not under the same ownership as the homestay use.
 - (vi) *Owner occupancy.* The owner of a parcel conducting a homestay use must reside on and be present at the subject property during the homestay use except during approved whole house rentals.

- (vii) *Owner occupancy during whole house rental.* The owner of a parcel conducting a homestay use that is approved for whole house rental may be absent during the rental period for up to seven days in any calendar month and up to 45 days in any calendar year. The owner shall maintain a log of all homestay uses including the date of each rental for which the owner is absent. This log shall be provided within five business days to the Zoning Administrator upon request.

([Ord. 12-18\(3\)](#), 6-6-12; [Ord. 19-18\(6\)](#), 8-7-19)