VACATION SMART

Vacations are great, especially when you can save money. Take the time to do a little research. Make sure where you take your family on a vacation will be as wonderful as you're dreaming about.

Air B&B Rentals

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW…

The assumption is, if it's being advertised for rent, it's safe. Not always so….

- Many rentals have never been approved as a commercial rental, and may not have the proper insurance coverage.

- Just because it's for rent, doesn't mean it was permitted and inspected. It may be a structure that was built with the sole purpose in mind of making rental income. Or it could be someone's private home that is being rented for vacations.

- The rental property may be lacking one or more safety features. If the rental has not been permitted or insured, you may have no recourse for compensation should something go wrong.

Did you know?

An owner occupied Bed and Breakfast with 5 or fewer rooms doesn't need a sprinkler system. However, a private home being rented out to people unfamiliar with their surroundings MUST have a sprinkler system.

Soooo, why is this important?

Think of it this way, if you wake up in the middle of the night to a smoke alarm going off, and you only got to bed a few hours ago after a long day of traveling, do you know how to get out of that house? Who really goes around and checks to see where the exits are, or where a fire extinguisher is located? Not many of us. That's why the assumption that a rental is safe can potentially be dangerous.

Don't be shy! Look around, ask questions.

- Are there smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms?

- Are exits clearly marked and is there an exit route posted in each sleeping area?

- Are there clear instructions posted for emergencies?

- Are there fire extinguishers? Where are they located?

- Has this property been approved and inspected for the advertised use?

- Is there someone on call if I should need help? Is that information clearly posted?