Monday, March 23, 2020

Governor's Stay at Home Order and Short-Term Rentals in Alpine County

We are receiving reports that vacation rentals (motels, hotels, condominiums, homes) are continuing to operate within the county, in clear violation of state public health orders* that clearly prohibit their operation. *https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/19/governor-gavin-newsom-issues-stay-at-home-order/ http://alpinecountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2895

The orders are clear in that lodging facilities may not operate except under very narrow situations that are unlikely to apply to vacation rentals within Alpine County. Those circumstances and exceptions are limited to the housing of critical infrastructure workers* for purposes of performing such work, and designation by the state or county to house confirmed COVID-10 patients. For exceptions, we ask that you inform us at 530-694-2146 by leaving the information or a message with Jessica. *https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf

Violation of health orders are crimes punishable by fines, imprisonment, or both.

The county is providing the following information to short-term vacation rentals that are continuing to operate:
- Vacation rentals currently operating within the county are required to cease operations immediately.
- Bookings for the foreseeable future should be immediately canceled.
- No new arrivals should be processed.
- No new reservations should be accepted until the orders have been rescinded.
- Any current guests in a vacation rental should be immediately directed to return directly home to “shelter in place” or should remain sheltered in place within their vacation rental until further notice.

The county regards compliance with the orders as a high priority and vital to the health and well-being of the residents of Alpine County and will do whatever is necessary within its legal powers to enforce the law.