

## **Septic Systems and Short-Term Rentals Long Lake Township**

If your septic system was installed any time after 1972, there is a good chance that there is a permit or other records on file at the Grand Traverse County Environmental Health Department. If that is the case, the Township requires that you contact the Health Department to have your septic system evaluated for use in a short-term rental prior to receiving a Short-Term Rental Certificate. Here is a link to the Health Department form required to get this evaluation accomplished: <https://www.grandtraverse.org/DocumentCenter/View/1995/Well-and-Septic-Status-Form-PDF>.

### **Instructions to Complete Well and Septic Status Form**

- Print and complete the first sheet with your name and property address, and contact information.
- Under the brief summary blank, fill in "for use as a (#) bedroom short-term rental".
- You can email the completed form to [eh@grandtraverse.org](mailto:eh@grandtraverse.org).
- The Health Department will contact you to arrange the required \$25 payment.
- Expect turnaround in 1-2 business days under normal circumstances.

After one of the Health Department sanitarians evaluates your unique situation, the Well and Septic Status Form completed by the Health Department will document the approved number of bedrooms for your short-term rental. Submit this to the Township with your Short-Term Rental Certification application.

If there are no records on your system (if it is older than 1972), you'll need to do a septic inspection. The Township already has a septic inspection program in place. See the list of the inspectors approved by the Township to perform the inspections. These inspectors are all third-party so they set their own pricing. Because they are competing for this work, they are generally competitively priced. This inspection can all serve dual purpose as it can also be used to fulfill the requirement to obtain an inspection upon the sale of property. Inspection reports are good for 3 years. For purposes of obtaining a short-term rental certificate, the inspection report will need to result in a "conclusion 1" by the inspector. This indicates that all current Health Code standards are met.

If you want to rent on a short-term basis, and you know that your septic system is nowhere near meeting current Health Code and there is no permit on file, you may decide to skip the inspection and consider upgrading the system. A system upgrade or replacement will require permitting through the Health Department. Contact the Health Department for more information about permits or status forms.

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