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Tips to deter human traffickers from booking short-term rentals

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Groups concerned that short-term rentals are being used for sex trafficking have issued tips to thwart the practice.

The Grey-Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Plan's crime prevention table issued a news release with tips, in partnership with the [Joy Smith Foundation](#) and Violence Prevention Grey Bruce.

Human traffickers — those who force participation in the sex trade — use STRs due to the greater possibility of anonymity, a news release said. The organizations' initiative seeks to educate STR operators on how to identify potential trafficking situations and respond appropriately.

Key warning signs of sex trafficking in short-term rentals include frequent use of STRs, last-minute bookings and multiple bookings that are in the same area; people arriving and departing from your property with minimal luggage not appropriate for the length of stay, and individuals who appear to be under the control of another person.

To deter sex traffickers, STR operators should screen bookings carefully, including guest reviews from other STRs, don't accept last-minute bookings, install cameras on the outside of their property to record those coming and going, do not allow guests to have unregistered guests, and state clearly in the listing that the operator is committed to preventing human trafficking and other illegal activities.
