

**PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tourist Development Tax Returns Can Now be Filed and the Taxes Paid
Via the Internet in Leon County**

Do you rent a room, an “in-law suite”, an apartment, a condo or some other form of living accommodations to an un-related person or persons on a “short term” basis (for less than six months at a time)? If so, you are legally required collect, report, and remit the so called “bed tax” (more properly called the “Tourist Development Tax”) on the amount your guests pay for their stay here in Leon County.

While most of the local businesses in the “hospitality industry” are well aware of this obligation and routinely comply, **a surprising number of local landlords do not realize that they are supposed to be collecting and remitting this tax to the Leon County Tax Collector.** As a result, this office must work closely with a number of partners to identify those who are not compliant, inform them of their obligations, and help them to fulfill their legal responsibilities.

Along with efforts to reach out to those who may be unaware and to gain their voluntary compliance with this tax, the Tax Collector is continually seeking ways to make it more convenient for taxpayers to comply. In response to a number of requests and suggestions from those who routinely collect this tax, **Leon County Tax Collector Doris Maloy now offers a secure on-line system that taxpayers can use to prepare their Tourist Development Tax returns, determine the amount of taxes due, file the return, and remit the tax payment electronically.**

Thus, area landlords can now avail themselves of a greatly simplified payment process by going to the Tax Collectors web site, www.leontaxcollector.net, clicking the **“ONLINE PAYMENT”** button and use the convenient “HELP” feature for in-depth instructions on how to use the system.

The actual tax payments can be made over the internet via “e-check” at no additional charge. (Payments can also be made by a credit or debit card, but use of that payment alternative involves the addition of a processing fee charged by an independent servicing company.)

Tax Collector Doris Maloy said, “As we seek to inform the owners of rental property in our County of their obligation to collect and remit the Tourist Tax, we also strive to make it as convenient as possible for them to comply. The newly enhanced on-line reporting and payment system is an important part of our efforts to meet the needs of our taxpayers. But it is important to realize that, even though we want to make remote payment processing an attractive and cost-effective option for our customers, **this office remains committed to offering excellent customer service, no matter how our customers choose to do business with us”**

“Taxing Situations Made Easier”