

# Florida Law Governing Guests in Campgrounds & RV Parks

## (Florida Statutes Required by Law to be Posted)

### 513.114 Liability for property of guests.

(1) The operator of a recreational vehicle park is not under any obligation to accept for safekeeping any moneys, securities, jewelry, or precious stones of any kind belonging to any guest; and, if such properties are accepted for safekeeping, the operator is not liable for the loss of any of the properties unless such loss was the proximate result of fault or negligence of the operator. However, if the recreational vehicle park gave a receipt for the property, which receipt had a statement of the property value on a form which stated, in type large enough to be clearly noticeable, that such park was not liable for a greater amount than \$1,000 for any loss exceeding \$1,000 and was only liable for an amount up to \$1,000 if the loss was the proximate result of fault or negligence of the operator, the liability of the operator is limited to \$1,000 for such loss.

(2) The operator of a recreational vehicle park is not liable or responsible to any guest for the loss of wearing apparel, goods, or other property, except as provided in subsection (1), unless such loss occurred as the proximate result of fault or negligence of such operator; and, in case of fault or negligence, the operator is not liable for a greater sum than \$500, unless the guest, prior to the loss or damage, filed with the operator an inventory of the guest's effects and their value and the operator was given an opportunity to inspect such effects and check them against such inventory. The operator of a recreational vehicle park is not liable or responsible to any guest for a greater amount than \$1,000 for the loss of effects listed in such inventory as having a value of a total amount exceeding \$1,000.

### 513.117 Park rules and regulations.

Any operator of a recreational vehicle park may establish reasonable rules and regulations for the management of the park and its guests and employees; and each guest or employee staying, sojourning, or employed in the park shall conform to, and abide by, such rules and regulations so long as the guest or employee remains in or at the park. Such rules and regulations are deemed to be a special contract between the operator and each guest or employee using the facilities or services of the recreational vehicle park and control the liabilities, responsibilities, and obligations of all parties. Any rules or regulations established pursuant to this section must be printed in the English language and posted, together with a copy of ss. 513.114, 513.121, and 513.13 and a notice stating that a current copy of this chapter is available in the park office for public inspection, in the registration area of such recreational vehicle park.

### 513.121 Obtaining accommodations in a recreational vehicle park with intent to defraud; penalty; rules of evidence.

(1) Any person who obtains accommodations in a recreational vehicle park which have a value of less than \$300 on a transient basis, with intent to defraud the operator of the park, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083; if such accommodations have a value of \$300 or more, such person is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(2) In a prosecution under subsection (1), proof that the accommodations were obtained by false pretense; by false or fictitious show of property; by absconding without paying, or offering to pay,

for such accommodations; or by surreptitiously removing, or attempting to remove, a recreational vehicle, park trailer, or tent constitutes prima facie evidence of fraudulent intent. If the operator of the park has probable cause to believe, and does believe, that any person has obtained accommodations at the park with intent to defraud the operator of the park, the failure to make payment upon demand for payment, there being no dispute as to the amount owed, constitutes prima facie evidence of fraudulent intent.

### 513.13 Recreational vehicle parks; eviction; grounds; proceedings.

(1) The operator of any recreational vehicle park may remove or cause to be removed from such park, in the manner provided in this section, any transient guest of the park who, while on the premises of the park, illegally possesses or deals in a controlled substance as defined in chapter 893 or disturbs the peace and comfort of other persons; who causes harm to the physical park; or who fails to make payment of rent at the rental rate agreed upon and by the time agreed upon. The admission of a person to, or the removal of a person from, any recreational vehicle park shall not be based upon race, color, national origin, sex, physical disability, or creed.

(2) The operator of any recreational vehicle park shall notify such guest that the park no longer desires to entertain the guest and shall request that such guest immediately depart from the park. Such notice shall be given in writing. If such guest has paid in advance, the park shall, at the time such notice is given, tender to the guest the unused portion of the advance payment. Any guest who remains or attempts to remain in such park after being requested to leave is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(3) If a guest has accumulated an outstanding account in excess of an amount equivalent to three nights' rent at a recreational vehicle park, the operator may disconnect all utilities of the recreational vehicle and notify the guest that the action is for the purpose of requiring the guest to confront the operator or permittee and arrange for the payment of the guest's account. Such arrangement must be in writing, and a copy shall be furnished to the guest. Upon entering into such agreement, the operator shall reconnect the utilities of the recreational vehicle.

(4) If any person is illegally on the premises of any recreational vehicle park, the operator of such park may call upon any law enforcement officer of this state for assistance. It is the duty of such law enforcement officer, upon the request of such operator, to place under arrest and take into custody for violation of this section any guest who violates subsection (1) or subsection (2) in the presence of the officer. If a warrant has been issued by the proper judicial officer for the arrest of any violator of subsection (1) or subsection (2), the officer shall serve the warrant, arrest the person, and take the person into custody. Upon arrest, with or without warrant, the guest is deemed to have given up any right to occupancy or to have abandoned the guest's right to occupancy of the premises of the recreational vehicle park; and the operator of the park shall employ all reasonable and proper means to care for any personal property left on the premises by such guest and shall refund any unused portion of moneys paid by such guest for the occupancy of such premises.

(5) In addition to the grounds for eviction established by law, grounds for eviction may be established in a written lease agreement between a recreational vehicle park operator or permittee and a recreational vehicle park occupant.