



# **BECOMING A LANDLORD**

When you own a rental property, you become a small business owner. As a Landlord, you must adhere to the laws, rules and regulations that govern rental housing and have a clear understanding of your responsibilities. The Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland Landlord/Tenant Codes present in detail what is required of Landlords and Tenants in each state. Notices and notifications must be made in accordance with the Code for your state; and any lease term which conflicts with the Code, whether written or verbal, is unenforceable.

## GUIDELINES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Your local municipality may require you to register your home as a rental property and schedule an inspection before you can accept a tenant.
  - ▶ Complete and submit the rental registration documents and schedule all required inspections.
- Don't rely on rental income to pay your mortgage and/or Association fees.
- Repair or replacement of home systems, i.e., HVAC unit, is your responsibility.
- All costs which keep the rental home safe, habitable and in compliance with municipal codes are your responsibility.
- Clearly understand laws, rules and regulations that govern rental housing and be prepared to meet deadlines required by law.
- Have a reserve budget equal to two or three months' rent to plan for the unexpected.
- Bring property into "rentable condition" prior to initially renting, and also between tenants.
  - Between tenants: professional painting, house cleaning, carpet cleaning
- Budget and plan a repair and maintenance schedule for the property. These costs are your responsibility.
- Label rental home's features and danger areas, i.e.,
  - Main shut-off valves for water and gas supply lines
  - Main electrical switch and thermostat on hot water heater
  - Circuit breaker box
- Make sure fire extinguishers and smoke detectors (which are required by most municipalities) are present and installed in accordance with local regulations.
- Prepare a pre-inspection checklist to help prepare your home for a rental.

### **QUESTIONS?**

Please contact the Patterson-Schwartz Property Management Department at 302-234-5240 or propertymanagement@psre.com



# **REASONS TO HIRE A PROPERTY MANAGER**

It may be tempting for you to take on the management of a renter in your property. Typically, this isn't a practical approach unless you are a handy person, live close to your property, have time to devote to the task of being a landlord, and are well versed on the Landlord Tenant Code in your state. Hiring a property manager helps you with:

### 1. Setting the appropriate rental rate for your home in the current market.

Setting the right rental price ensures a good balance between maximizing monthly income and maintaining a low vacancy rate. Patterson-Schwartz has been helping clients rent and manage their homes since 1977.

### 2. Marketing and advertising your property.

Patterson-Schwartz knows how and where to market your property and how to create inviting, compelling advertising materials. Showcasing your property – with descriptions and photos – is the first step in drawing potential renters to your home. A home that is well maintained, clean, and updated always draws quality tenants.

### 3. Finding the right tenants.

Experienced property managers know how to find good tenants. They fully screen applicants for you — verify employment, collect appropriate references, run credit, and secure any other details that help you make a decision about an applicant.

### 4. Collecting and depositing monthly rental payments on time.

Patterson-Schwartz collects rental payments and direct deposits them into your account on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. We provide a monthly statement (available online) and a year-end statement of income/expenses. We send the appropriate legal letters to a tenant (as required by the Landlord Tenant laws in your state), so that your interests are protected and your tenant is given appropriate notice about late rent, etc.

## 5. Managing tenants.

This is the most important job a property manager does. We handle routine and emergency maintenance, perform inspections, coordinate maintenance calls with tenants, schedule routine property tasks, and resolve conflict should it arise. The Landlord Tenant laws in your state govern how "business" is conducted between a landlord and a tenant. A good property manager knows the Landlord Tenant Code, provides education for the tenant regarding the code, and uses it to promote positive relationships with tenants.

# 6. Managing contractor relationships.

Property managers have strong relationships with maintenance contractors, plumbers, electricians, painters, suppliers, and other tradespeople that it would be difficult for an independent landlord to duplicate. Patterson-Schwartz property managers pride themselves on providing respected contractors who do excellent work at competitive rates.

# 7. Educating homeowners.

A good property manager will educate you about the applicable federal, state, county, city, and town(ship) laws and regulations that govern rental properties. In some cases, you may be required to register your property as a rental unit. A good property manager will advise you about what is required so you are in compliance with all regulations.

### 8. Applying care.

A good property manager will advocate for routine care and maintenance of your home, inside and out. Routine maintenance on homes systems, gutter cleanouts, winterization procedures, preventative pest control treatments, lawn and garden care, safety issues are part of a good plan to help you maintain your home in good condition.

# PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Patterson-Schwartz & Associates Property Management Division offers three levels of service. Our clients may choose Full Property Management, Non-Management or the Landlord Assistance Program.

### FULL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The management fee is 10% of the monthly rent, plus a leasing fee<sup>1</sup>, which is equivalent to one month's rent. In addition to the services listed above under non-management, we will:

- Collect monthly rent
- Monitor payments; mail 5 Day Late Rent Notice if applicable
- Prepare monthly financial statements
- Respond to tenant phone calls
- Provide 24-hour emergency maintenance service
- Handle all tenancy challenges and resolve problems
- Provide financial information and documentation to owner for tax purposes and requirements
- Order and pay for maintenance on owner's behalf and reconcile monthly
- Prepare lease renewal annually

### **NON-MANAGEMENT**

The non-management fee is the equivalent of one month's rent (minimum \$750) for which we will:

- Market property on www.pattersonschwartz.com and respond to online inquiries within 24 hours
- Install a Patterson-Schwartz Lawn Sign with text messaging feature (if allowable/appropriate)
- List property on BrightMLS, the regional multi-listing service
- List property on our internal rental list (available to our sales associates, corporate relocation clients and the public)
- Schedule property showings
- Offer co-broke compensation to showing agents from other real estate companies
- Inform owner of inquiries and showing activity
- Process rental application (including credit check, landlord reference and employment verification) and present to owner for approval/rejection.
- Prepare lease and other documents as required
- Manage tenant move-in, which includes lease signing, providing keys, collecting first month's rent, collecting security deposit, collecting pet deposit (if applicable)

The executed lease, first month's rent, pet and/or security deposit (minus our leasing fee) is forwarded to the property owner. Day-to-day management of the property, tenant concerns and collection of remaining rents are the owner's responsibility. Lease renewal is available at a cost of \$225.

### LANDLORD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Landlord Assistance Program is available to owners who have already secured or prefer to secure their own tenants. The following fee-for-service options are available:

Rental Application Processing \$175
 Lease Preparation \$350
 Lease Renewal \$225
 Change Lease (add/delete tenant) \$100²

For additional information, or to speak with a Property Manager, please call us at 302-234-5240.



# PATTERSON-SCHWARTZ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OWNER INFORMATION

Referred by:				
I am interested in: ☐ Full Management ☐ Non-Management				
Rental Property Address:				
Date available for showings:	for occupancy	Monthly Rent: \$	<u> </u>	
Property Owner 1:	Middle	Last	Suffix	
	(	)	Sullix	
Social Security #:				
Property Owner 2:				
First ()	Middle (	Last )	Suffix	
Home Work	Ce	I Email		
Social Security #:	(only if Full Mgmt)			
Owner mailing address:				
<ul> <li>□ Property currently for sale? Please provide the listing agent's name:</li></ul>				
Tenant name	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>		
	_			
	_			
Full management clients: please provide banking information so that rental proceeds can be direct-deposited.  Non-management clients <b>must</b> provide the bank name where the security deposit will be held in escrow. It is required to have a branch located in the same state as the rental property.				
Bank Name	Routing number	Account num	ber	



# PATTERSON-SCHWARTZ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

# **PROPERTY INFORMATION**

# **Utilities/Services**

Utility/Service	Included in Rent	Provider Name	Contact Number
ELECTRIC	□Y □N		
□GAS □ OIL □ PROPANE	□Y □N		
WATER	□Y □N		
SEWER	□Y □N		
LAWN MOWING	□Y □N		
SNOW REMOVAL	□Y□N		
CABLE/INTERNET/PHONE	□Y □N		
TRASH/RECYCLE	□Y □N		
Heat type: ☐ forced air ☐ radi. Heat fuel: ☐ electric ☐ natura Water heater type: ☐ electric ☐  Please provide list of any service  Name ————————————————————————————————————	al gas □ prop □ natural gas e contracts or	ane □ oil □ geothermal □ o □ propane □ oil □ other preferred contractors.	Phone Number
☐ There is a Security System a ☐ There is a garage door keypa ☐ Additional gate/access codes ☐ There is a sprinkler system. ☐ There are# window ac us ☐ There are# fireplace(s) to ☐ functional, for tenant of ☐ non-functional/not for ☐ There is a septic system and ☐ There is a water treatment sy ☐ There is a pool: ☐ in-ground	ad and the codes are:  hits.  hat is/are □ wouse, and chimnate tenant use.  it was last punched was and it was tenand it was and it was and it was and it was are and it was are and it was and it was are	e is:  bood-burning    □ natural gas   □ ney was last cleaned  nped as last serviced	propane □other



# PATTERSON-SCHWARTZ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT **PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT.)**

<u>Appliances/Systems</u>
(Make, model and warranties only needed for full management)

	Appliances/Systems	Yes/No	Make	Model	Warranties
	Stove □ Gas □ Electric	□Y □N			
	Washer	$\square$ Y $\square$ N			
	Dryer  ☐ Gas ☐ Electric	□Y □N			
	Microwave	$\Box$ Y $\Box$ N			
	Dishwasher	$\square$ Y $\square$ N			
	Refrigerator	□Y □N			
	Disposal	□Y□N			
	Dehumidifier	□Y □N			
	Humidifier	□Y □N			
	Central Air	□Y □N			
	Other	□Y □N			
	Other	$\Box$ Y $\Box$ N			
Add	itional inclusions:				
Add	itional information:				



# PATTERSON-SCHWARTZ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

# **SPECIAL CLAUSES**

### Check only those that apply

D-4	X	No smoking permitted Renters insurance required
Pet		No pets permitted. Pet(s) permitted with owner approval and pet deposit.
Ge	ner	al
		Tenant pays all utilities including:   water  sewer  trash  oil  propane  Property is currently wired for security system, monitoring available at tenant expense.  Tenant responsible for lawn care to include grass cutting, weeding, leaf removal and snow removal.  No alterations to home or grounds without written permission from Landlord.  Use of area rugs or floor protectors required under all furniture resting on hardwood flooring.  Tenant responsible for replacement of any batteries, bulbs, or filters in the property during tenancy.  Tenant must run dehumidifier:  May through September  at all times
Fire	epla	ace
		The property has a wood-burning fireplace. The damper must be opened before starting any fire. Use only seasoned hardwoods or manufactured fire logs according to instructions. Do not overfill the fireplace and use a fireplace screen when in use to prevent damage to flooring. The property has a gas fireplace and tenant is prohibited from burning any additional materials. The fireplace is non-functional and not for tenant use.
HV	AC	
		Property has $\square$ oil $\square$ propane. Tank level will be documented upon move in and tenant is to leave the tank at same level or above upon vacating.  Tenant will reimburse owner for $\square$ oil $\square$ propane in tank at time of possession. Tenant will have tank dipped within 3 days of move-out and provide receipt for reimbursement by owner.  Tenant will be responsible for service costs associated with empty tanks or not replacing filters. Service contract in place on heater. Tenant must abide by terms of service contract.  Tenant required to change HVAC filters at least quarterly or as recommended by manufacturer.
Plu	ımb	oing .
		□ Ice makers □ garbage disposals will be repaired at owner's discretion.  Clogged drains resulting from tenants' actions will be repaired at the tenants' expense.  Property has a □ public sewer □ septic system. Tenant is prohibited from flushing cat litter, cleaning products, feminine hygiene products, diapers, cleaning wipes, tissue papers, paper towels, and other foreign objects down the toilet.
		Tenant is responsible for maintaining the water filtration/softener system by changing filters and/or adding additives as required.
Co	mm	nunity
		Parking permits required. Special move-in procedures apply.
		Tenant pays all utilities not provided by HOA/Condo Association.
		Town/City/Association of regulations apply.  Association amenities available to tenant. Any pass or key charges will be paid by tenant.
	_	Accordance and intermited available to teriain. Any pass of hey charges will be paid by teriain.

### Other



# **OWNER PORTAL**

# WE PROVIDE AN ONLINE PORTAL FOR YOUR STATEMENTS, INVOICES AND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS.

# Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate 7234 Lancaster Pike Suite 2208 Hockessin, DE 19707 Secure Account Login Email Address Fassword Forgot your password? Don't have an Account? Signing up is easy, fast and secure.



Patterson-Schwartz Property
Management Division utilizes an
Owner's Portal to maintain your
monthly statements and all supporting
documentation for your rental property
through a secure online portal. You will
also be able to edit your contact and
banking information here.

The Owner's Portal makes accessing property information fast and easy by allowing you to view your property folder at your convenience, share, track and print your online documents anytime.

We will set up your Owner's Portal using your email address on file. Once this is done, you will receive an e-mail providing a temporary password which is case sensitive. You will be asked to change this temporary password to one of your choice the first time you log in.

### **ACCESS THE OWNER PORTAL:**

- Visit http://www.pattersonschwartz.com/rent/
- click on Owner Login
- The sign-on for your property is your email address.
- Reminder: the first time you log in you will be required to change the temporary password.

**QUESTIONS?** If you have any questions, please contact your Property Manager. If you forget your password, we can reset it for you.



# **ONLINE PARTNERS**

# WE HAVE AN AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY FOR ATTRACTING RENTERS TO OUR LISTINGS.

By distributing your listing information and photographs to a wide array of national consumer websites, we ensure we maximize every opportunity to attract qualified renters to your property. In addition to appearing online, we also promote our listings on the mobile platform of each of our online partner sites.

# pattersonschwartz.com







