

TIME OF TRANSFER REGULATION

QUICK FACTS

WHO IS IMPACTED?

- Property owners who are selling or transferring a property that has a dwelling located within 300 feet of surface water and is served by a well and/or septic system.

WHAT IS THE REGULATION?

- In Grand Traverse County, any property with a well and/or septic system must have those systems evaluated before it can be sold or transferred if the home is within 300 feet of surface water (measured from the closest part of the home to the water or high-water mark).

WHAT DOES THE REGULATION REQUIRE?

- An evaluation of the dwelling's water and/or septic system by an evaluator certified by Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD).
- Evaluations are submitted to the GTCHD for review and approval prior to any property sale or transfer.
- If any part of a water or septic system is not approved, corrections must be made before the property transaction can be approved.

WHEN DOES THE REGULATION TAKE EFFECT?

- The regulation was adopted on May 21, 2025, and goes into effect on January 1, 2026.

WHY IS THE REGULATION IMPORTANT?

- This regulation is a proactive step toward protecting one of our community's greatest resources, our lakes and rivers. It will also prevent or minimize the degradation of groundwater and surface water quality caused by malfunctioning sewage treatment systems. It also aims to ensure safe drinking water supplies through evaluation and testing prior to approval.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE REGULATION?

- The Grand Traverse County Regulation for the Evaluation of Onsite Water and Sewage Disposal Systems at Time of Property Transfer can be found on our website or by scanning the QR code.

