

Going Smoke-Free: A Guide for Landlords

Sample Letter Notifying Tenants of Lease and Rule Change

Resident
123 Main Street
City, State 01234

Dear Resident:

The decision has been made for this property to become smoke free, including all apartments. The only way to prevent smoke from seeping into common areas and the apartments of nonsmokers is to prohibit smoking entirely in and around the building.

The adverse health effects of secondhand smoke are well documented. A smoke free property will help protect the health of residents and their families. To the residents who smoke, you are welcome to continue living in the building, as long as you refrain from smoking while on the property.

The rule change will occur *when leases are renewed*. As new residents move in and current residents renew their leases, the no smoking rule will become effective for their apartments. This means that during the next year, some residents might not be prohibited from smoking inside their apartments, not until their leases are renewed. I ask for your cooperation as I phase in the new rule. (Please note that I reserve the right to prohibit smoking immediately.)

In addition, effective immediately, smoking is prohibited in all common areas of the building, including but not limited to, hallways, stairways, foyers, common rooms and facilities, fire escapes, decks, patios, exterior landings, front steps, entrance ways, basements, storage areas and other building facilities. Smoking means the inhaling, exhaling, breathing, carrying, or possession of any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, other product containing any amount of tobacco, or other similar lighted product.

Please inform your guests that smoking is prohibited. You will be held responsible, if your guest violates the no smoking rule.

I sincerely hope that all residents, even those who smoke, will continue to enjoy living in the building. I embrace this small change as an opportunity to ensure that the building is a healthier and cleaner place for all residents and guests.

Sincerely,

Landlord

The Massachusetts Smoke-Free Housing Project
An Initiative of the Public Health Advocacy Institute
Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health



makesmokinghistory.org