



STEPS TOWARDS SMOKE FREE POLICIES FOR TENANTS

1. Document each time smoke enters your home, from where the smoke enters and how it affects you and your family.
2. Talk with the smoker about the issue of secondhand smoke coming into your unit. Be friendly and provide some solutions such as smoking outside and away from the building. Often smokers do not know that their smoke may be causing a problem.
3. Talk with your health care provider and ask if they will provide a letter about how the smoke is affecting the health of you and your family.
4. Talk with your neighbors to find out if they are having a similar problem. Ask them to help or support you in addressing the issue and asking for smoke free policies for the building/complex.
5. Write a letter to your landlord and/or complex management company about the problem of secondhand smoke entering your unit and the effects of it on you and your family and schedule an appointment to talk about solutions to the issue.
6. Give your landlord or complex management information on the health effects of secondhand smoke and solutions to the problem. Let them know that it is legal to make the property smoke free and give them information on how to go about making the property smoke free.
7. Document all of your discussions and communications with your landlord or management company so that there is proof that you have asked for the secondhand smoke issue to be addressed.
8. Should the problem not get resolved, possible legal remedies are to file a complaint with the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office claiming a violation of the Federal Fair Housing Act and/or file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice claiming a violation to the Americans with Disabilities Act. You may also consider contacting a lawyer to file a lawsuit against the landlord and/or the smoker.

Adapted from GASP of Colorado, www.mysmokefreehousing.org

This information is for educational purposes only and is not to be construed as a legal opinion or as a substitute for obtaining legal advice from an attorney.



For more information, contact the CT Department of Public Health, Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program at 860-509-8251 or check out www.ct.gov/dph/tobacco.