



Smoke-free Apartments and Condos: How to Go Smoke-Free

Tips for Requesting a Reasonable Accommodation from Your Landlord

If secondhand smoke in your apartment or condo building is creating a health concern, there are a number of actions you can take. One option is to request a “reasonable accommodation” from your landlord. A letter from your physician will help demonstrate that, as a result of secondhand smoke exposure, you are not able to exercise the full use and enjoyment of your unit.

Ask your physician to include the following specifics in a letter supporting your request for a reasonable accommodation:

1. Qualifications of the professional who is verifying the need for a reasonable accommodation.

Example: Health care professional states their name, title and certification.

2. Nature of the contact the professional has had with the individual making the request.

Example: Health care professional states the name of the patient/tenant and the duration of their medical relationship.

3. Statement that the tenant has a condition caused or worsened by secondhand smoke, whose symptoms substantially limit one or more major life activities.

Example: Health care professional details the nature of the condition and how it’s affected by secondhand smoke.

4. Description of the tenant’s limitations as a result of the condition.

Example: Health care professional provides examples of the every day activities – like breathing, working, exercising or sleeping – that are adversely affected by the condition and by secondhand smoke.

5. Description of how the reasonable accommodation is necessary to afford the tenant the opportunity for full use and enjoyment of their unit.

Example: Health care professional re-iterates the nature of the tenant’s “reasonable accommodation” request, specifying that the proposed solution would alleviate the condition caused or worsened by secondhand smoke.

Make sure to ask for a copy of any correspondence that is sent to your landlord on your behalf, and keep it on file with any communications you’ve had with your landlord.