

NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY NO SMOKING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Newton Housing Authority recognizes that smoking poses substantial health hazards, both to smokers and persons exposed to tobacco smoke; that smoking creates a fire hazard and is a leading cause of fire, causing both injury and property damage. Smoking may be a serious nuisance to non-smoking neighbors and permitting smoking in residential property substantially increases a landlord's maintenance costs.

The Newton Housing Authority further recognizes that these problems are exacerbated in multi-unit dwellings, particularly when the resident population is composed of senior citizens and families. Accordingly, the Newton Housing Authority has determined that it is in the best interest of the Agency and its residents to adopt a no-smoking policy for its property, located at Liberty Towers, 32 Liberty Street, Newton.

However, in order to ensure fairness to current residents who smoke, the policy will be applied to new tenants immediately and all tenants upon their next annual recertification. Current tenants that smoke will be "grandfathered" into the policy and allowed to smoke in their individual apartments and in designated exterior locations. However, they will be required to provide their own air filtration device that must be registered and approved by the Newton Housing Authority.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Newton Housing Authority that its development be smoke-free by December 31, 2010. There shall be no smoking anywhere in the building including in the individual dwelling units of the tenants, lobbies, halls, and other common rooms and spaces in the building. Smoking will be permitted on the grounds in a designated area assigned by the Newton Housing Authority.

This policy shall be effective immediately, and shall apply to current tenants upon their next annual recertification. Current residents who smoke shall be required to provide an air filtration device that is registered and approved by the Newton Housing Authority. All residents and successful applicants for admission shall be required to sign an addendum to the standard Newton Housing Authority dwelling lease setting forth the no-smoking policy and making compliances with the policy, terms and conditions of the Lease.

An Addendum is attached to the lease and new residents will be required to sign the addendum as part of the initial lease-signing process.

Current residents who smoke shall be permitted to smoke in their rooms, so long as they keep the doors to their units closed and provide an air filtration device that is registered and approved by the Newton Housing Authority.