

Resident Services Newsletter

MONTH OF CHANGE

SMOKE-FREE POLICY

APRIL 2018



What is the new smoke-free policy?

Smoking is prohibited on all property owned and operated by Reading Housing Authority in conjunction with the Public Housing Program. "Smoking" means inhaling, burning or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including water pipes ("hookahs").

Why is RHA establishing a smoke-free policy?

To improve indoor air quality, benefit the health of public housing residents and RHA staff; reduce the risk of fires and lower overall maintenance costs.

Who does the policy affect? The policy applies to everyone on public housing properties, including residents, staff, and guests.

Will my smoking status be used to determine by housing eligibility?

No, smoking status will not be used to determine if someone is eligible for public housing. This policy is about the smoke, not the person who smokes.

I understand that I can't smoke my cigarettes anymore. Can I smoke electronic cigarettes instead?

"Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device ("e-cig") which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or form, including by use of materials for "vaping."

Does a smoke-free policy infringe upon the personal right to smoke in the privacy of a home?

No, RHA has the legal right to set limits on how a resident may use rental property, such as restricting guests, noise, and pets. A nonsmoking policy is another way for a landlord to protect property from damage and to minimize disruptions to other tenants' enjoyment of the building.



**Please contact
Resident Services
if you need assistance
with understanding
our new
smoke-free policy.**

**Resident Services:
610-376-8413**

**Service Coordinators:
Grisel Saez, Ext. 204.
Sandra Flores-Nieves,
Ext. 203.**

**Director:
Jack Knockstead
Ext. 201.**

Do I have to quit smoking?

The policy does not prevent people who smoke from living in public housing. It simply limits where people can smoke.

Where CAN I smoke? RHA is only telling you that you can't smoke on RHA property. So, any place around the property that is not owned by RHA is not subject to this policy.

Does the smoke-free policy include scattered-sites or single family public housing? Attached balconies or porches?

Under the final policy, smoking is banned in all public housing units, single-family detached public housing, and all property of RHA. The final policy also prohibits smoking on balconies, porches, and attached structures if they are part of the building, and within playgrounds and/or courtyards.

What happens if I violate the policy?

RHA will give verbal and written warnings to residents who have infringed the policy. A private conference with resident will be held after two warnings to determine results of lease termination.

What happens if my guests infringe this policy?

Residents are responsible for making sure that all of their guests follow RHA's policies and regulations including the smoke-free policy.

What can I do if I want to quit?

RHA is working with Council on Chemical Abuse to provide classes to those residents who would like to quit smoking. Classes haven been held in all of our sites. If you would like to attend these classes please contact Teresa Tieman at 610- 376-8669 or stop to see our RHA wellness nurses Maggie or Linda for individual counseling.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR HELPING MAKE RHA A SAFER AND HEALTHIER PLACE TO LIVE!