



Sample Letter from Resident to Association Board

[Date]

Board/ Manager
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Board,

I am concerned about the secondhand smoke that drifts into my unit from [insert where smoke is coming from]. The secondhand smoke is harming my health and the health of my family. It is causing us to become sick [insert specific symptoms here].

I'm sure the board wants to ensure that residents are safe, healthy, and happy. I'd like the board to consider adopting a smoke-free policy for our entire building in order to protect residents from the health risks of secondhand smoke exposure.

Here are a few things you should know about secondhand smoke in multi-housing:

1. **Secondhand smoke is a known carcinogen.** Even short exposures can have serious consequences for those with heart and lung problems, especially in those who have heart disease. Associations of common interest communities may face litigation for allowing it in their buildings, just as they may be liable for asbestos, mold, or lead. Not addressing the smoke problem could set our association up for legal problems or to suits under the Federal Fair Housing Act.
2. **No federal or state law prohibits adoption of smoke-free policies** for common interest communities. Policies can be adopted that require all common areas, individual units and exterior grounds be smoke free. There is also no law that requires current residents to be grandfathered/exempted from a policy. The change can apply to everyone in order to ensure that all residents are protected from secondhand smoke.

There is a program called Live Smoke Free that can help us through the process of adopting a smoke-free policy for our association. Their website is www.mnsmokefreehousing.org and their phone number is (651) 646-3005.

I look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Unit Number]