



Tobacco Prevention Program, Florida Department of Health in Seminole County



POINTS OF

- More than 80% of adults in Florida are non-smokers.
- Smoking is not a legal right.
- Third-hand smoke is the residual from the chemicals like nicotine.

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How are you Exposed?

One of the most crucial ways to protect yourself and your loved ones from the dangers of secondhand smoke (SHS) is to maintain a 100 percent smoke-free home. While smoking may not be permitted inside your own home, drifting SHS from nearby and adjacent apartments or condos can affect you. It has been proven that tobacco smoke transfers from one unit to nearby units and hallways.

Tobacco smoke can move along air ducts, through cracks in the walls and floors, through elevator shafts, and along plumbing and electrical lines affecting units that are nearby and even on other floors.

While a home should always be a safe place for children, the fact is that the primary place young children breathe SHS is in their own homes. Exposure to SHS increases a child's risk of respiratory infections and common ear infections. Children with asthma who are exposed to SHS are likely to experience more frequent and more severe attacks, which can put their lives in danger. Exposure to SHS also



doubles an infant's risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Children are not the only ones affected. Parents, neighbors, and those who are sick, disabled or recovering from illness at home may think they're avoiding SHS inside their own home. But, many living in apartments and condos are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals in tobacco smoke from nearby units. Those who are smoking inside their homes may have no idea they're affecting their neighbors. While the serious health risks of SHS are more widely known and understood, the issue of tobacco smoke in multi-unit in multi-unit housing is one of those situations. housing remains complex and challenging. Respectful and considerate tenants try their best to be accommodating to their neighbors. In fact, most Americans clearly value privacy in their own homes and support protecting the privacy of others. However, there can be situations where the well-being of one group supersedes the actions of another. Tobacco smoke in multi-unit housing is one of those situations. ■



For Landlords...

REDUCED COSTS

Cleaning costs are lower when you don't have to scrub, paint, and replace items in an apartment that smell like smoke or are covered in residue.

REDUCE POTENTIAL LEGAL LIABILITY

Smoking-related fires are deadly and costly. Smoking in apartment buildings exposes landlords and property managers to significant potential liability. By going smoke-free, you eliminate the source of this liability. Some insurance companies may even provide reduced premium rates to buildings that are smoke free or to tenants who live in a smoke-free building.

BENEFITS FOR LANDLORDS

- Save on insurance
- Reduce risk of fire damage
- Avoid being sued by non-smokers
- Improve Occupancy rate

ENFORCEMENT

Options for enforcement after neighbors or staff notice smoking:

- Fines
- Cleaning Fees
- Write-ups in resident's file
- Eviction or property lien

IS IT LEGAL?

Smoke-free housing is based on other restrictions for shared (non-separated) housing, such as noise restrictions and vegetation boundaries. Also, in state where tobacco use is not a protected class, such as Florida, suits against smoke free housing has not held up in court.

A Smoke-Free Policy is not a restriction it is an AMENITY



TIP: We can help you with implementation ideas and resources!

3 Ways To Quit Classes
Call (877) 252-6094

**Increase your occupancy!
Go smoke-free!**

A smoke-free policy is a no-cost amenity that saves time and money, can increase occupancy, and even improves the health and wellbeing of your tenants.

Manager Perceptions of Smoke-Free Policy Effect on Occupancy

Effect	Percentage
No Effect	57.02%
Positive Effect	42.69%
Negative Effect	0.29%

WHAT TENANTS WANT

- In a survey of 684 managers of smoke-free properties in Florida, 57% of managers agreed that smoke-free policies do not hurt occupancy and 43% believed that they increased occupancy.
- There are more than 900 smoke-free housing properties and 114,000 smoke-free units across Florida.
- More than 80% of adults in Florida are non-smokers and the vast majority of tenants - four out of five - would prefer to live in smoke-free housing.

tobaccofreeflorida.com/smokefreehousing

About Us

Our **Tobacco Education and Prevention Program** at the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County offers comprehensive information guided to address the following goals:

- Prevention of youth tobacco use initiation.
- Cessation support for youth and adults.
- Reduction in exposure to second-hand smoke.

The program includes objectives to establish and strengthen healthcare provider and community partnerships to provide resources and referrals to smokers who are ready to quit. Health education initiatives also include information about chronic diseases related to tobacco use, such as asthma, diabetes and COPD.

For More Information:

400 W. Airport Blvd. • Sanford, FL 32773
Contact Dahlia Scafe at (407) 665-3184
www.TobaccoFreeFlorida.com/smokefreehousing

MISSION: To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

VISION: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation.

Other Programs and Services offered at the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County:

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| Breast & Cervical Cancer Screenings | Pregnancy |
| Birth & Death Certificate Copies | Refugee Health |
| Dental Care-Adult and Child | STD, HIV/AIDS-Testing and Treatment |
| Environmental Services | TB Testing and Treatment |
| Family Planning | Travel Vaccines |
| Healthy Start | Teen and Child Health |
| Hepatitis Testing and Treatment | WIC |
| Immunizations | Women's Health |
| Men's Health | |