



Gary Housing Authority

Gary Housing Authority
578 Broadway, Gary, IN 46402

Telephone (219) 881-6400 · Fax- (219) 881-6414 · www.garyhousing.org

Gary Housing Authority Resident Smoke-Free Policy

Adopted October 18, 2016

Smoke-Free Resident Housing Policy Gary Housing Authority

To insure the quality of air and the safety of residents in all housing owned and operated by the Gary Housing Authority, the Authority has declared that all residential buildings shall be smoke free. Smoking is not permitted in any area of the buildings, including apartments, effective December 31, 2016. Smoking is only permitted in specifically designated areas, if any, 25 feet outside of the building. All tenants, employees and guests must abide by the following rules and regulations.

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The Gary Housing Authority finds that:

Whereas, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, has concluded that (1) secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; (2) children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory problems, ear infections, and asthma attacks, and the smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children; (3) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer ;(4) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and (5) establishing smoke free workplaces and residences is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace or in residences, because ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

Whereas, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a cause of disease to healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and responsible for the early deaths of approximately 53,000 Americans annually.

Whereas, the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program (NTP) has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen.

Whereas, based on a finding by the California Environmental Protection Agency in 2005, the California Air Resources Board has been determined that secondhand smoke is a toxic air contaminant, finding that exposure to secondhand smoke has serious health effects, including low birth-weight babies; sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS); increased respiratory infections in children; asthma in children and adults, lung cancer, sinus cancer, and breast cancer in younger, pre-menopausal women; heart disease; and death.

Whereas, inasmuch as there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) bases its ventilation standards on totally smoke free environments. ASHRAE had determined that there is currently no air filtration or other ventilation technology that can completely eliminate all the carcinogenic components in secondhand smoke and the health risks caused by secondhand smoke exposure, and recommends that indoor environments be smoke-free in their entirety.

Whereas HUD Notice PIH-2009-21 (HA), issued on July 17, 2009, strongly encourages Public Housing Authorities to implement non-smoking policies in all their public housing units.

Now therefore, the Gary Housing Authority adopts this smoke free housing policy for all its offices, residential buildings and all scattered site homes effective October 18, 2016.





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1. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in all buildings including apartments, in accordance with the following schedule. Effective on December 31, 2016 all current residents, all employees, all guests and all new residents of any and all Gary Housing Authority housing after this date will be prohibited from smoking anywhere in the building, including in apartment units. Failure of any resident to follow the smoke-free policy will be considered a lease violation.
2. "No Smoking" signs will be posted outside and inside the building.
3. Smoking outside the buildings shall be permitted only in designated smoking areas. If any, which shall be located twenty-five (25) feet from the buildings and sidewalks so that secondhand tobacco smoke will not enter the buildings nor will residents and guests have to walk through secondhand tobacco smoke to enter or leave the buildings. Persons smoking in these areas are responsible for not littering the grounds with cigarette butts or other tobacco products.
4. If a resident smells tobacco smoke in any place in the building, they are to report this to the office in writing as soon as possible. Management will seek the source of the smoke and take appropriate action.
5. New tenants will be given two (2) copies of the smoking policy. After review, the tenant will sign both copies and return one to the Gary Housing Authority's office. The copy will be placed in the tenant's file.
6. Upon adoption of this policy, all tenants presently living in Gary Housing Authority will be given two copies of the policy. After review, the tenant will sign both copies and return one to the Gary Housing Authority office for placement in the tenant's file.

TENANT CERTIFICATION

I have read and understand the Gary Housing Authority Smoke-Free Policy and agree to comply fully with the provisions. I understand that failure to comply may constitute reason for termination of my lease.

Resident Signature _____

Apartment Number (Address) _____ Date: _____

GHA Official Signature Witness _____ Date: _____

