

**SMOKE-FREE HOUSING POLICY FOR  
The Housing Authority of Prince George's County**

**To insure the quality of air and the safety of residents, the Housing Authority of Prince George's County has declared all of their properties to be smoke-free. Smoking is not permitted within any building to include: apartment units and townhomes, except for residents with temporary exemptions from this policy, as described below. Smoking is only permitted in specifically designated areas, at a distance of 50 from the exterior of the building and entrance canopies, where applicable. All tenants, guests, employees, contractors and employees of contractors providing services at HAPGC must abide by the following rules and regulations.**

**Adopted:  
[April 6,  
2015]**

**The Housing Authority of Prince George's County finds that:**

In 2012, the County council of Prince George's County introduced and ratified bill **CB-24-2012** addressing: The Public Housing and Senior Citizen Housing Ban for the purpose of restricting smoking inside of public housing and senior citizen housing. **Subtitle 19. Pollution. Sections 19-140, 19-141, 19-142 and 19-143** The Prince George's County Code (2011 Edition). The county's bill is bolstered by Federal Housing and Urban development (**HUD**) submittal of two notices [**Notice Nos. PIH-2009-21 (HA) and H 2010-21**] prompting public housing authorities to implement non-smoking policies in some or all of their public housing units.

In 2008, Maryland passed the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) which prohibits smoking in all indoor public areas, including bars and restaurants. The CIAA also covers all indoor common areas in multi-unit housing complexes. However, smoking in outdoor areas and within individual units can expose residents to harmful secondhand smoke drift. The US Surgeon General (2010) report confirmed that there is no risk-free level of exposure to tobacco smoke. In multi-unit housing, secondhand smoke drift is hazardous to the health of residents, especially children. Implementing smoke-free policies in low income multi-unit housing would help to reduce secondhand smoke exposure for residents.

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 that 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; (5) establishing smoke-free workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace, because ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and (6) evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke-free policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry.

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 in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of approximately 53,000 Americans annually.

Whereas, based on a finding by the California Environmental Protection Agency in 2005, the California Air Resources Board has 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, premenopausal women; heart disease; and death.

Now therefore, the Housing Authority of Prince George's County adopts this smoke-free housing policy for :

- 1100 Owens Road Apartment Building located at 1100 Owens Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745
- Cottage City Apartments located at 4142 Bunker Hill Road Cottage City, MD 20722
- Kimberly Gardens Multi – Family Units located at 9214 Cherry Lane Laurel, MD 20708
- Marlboro Towne Multi- Family Units located at 1849 Tanow Place District Heights, MD 20747
- RollingCrest Townhomes located at 5659 Sargent Road Hyattsville, MD 20722

- **Smoking Policy**

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- I. This policy establishes standards and requirements to provide a smoke-free environment for all Housing Authority of Prince George properties. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building including apartment units and townhomes, in accordance with the following schedule. Effective on [June 01, 2015 ], all current tenants, guests, employees, contractors and employees of contractors providing services at HAPGC, after this date will be prohibited from smoking within any building to include: apartment units and townhomes, except for residents with temporary exemptions from this policy. There is a temporary exception to this policy for current residents who are smokers. Any current resident as of [June 01, 2015] who smokes must complete a temporary smoking exemption form allowing them to smoke in their apartment only. This exemption will continue only until the date of the resident's lease renewal, at which time the smoking policy will also apply to the resident. Failure of any resident to follow the smoke-free policy will be considered a lease violation.
  
- II. Definitions
  - a. "Smoking" means carrying or smoking a lighted tobacco product or the burning of any material to be inhaled including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, and pipes.
  - b. "Institutional Property" means any property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled or operated by HAPGC, including buildings, other structures and grounds, and vehicles owned or leased by the institution.
  - c. Smoking outside the building is limited to the following area(s), if any:  
50 feet beyond the exterior of the building
  
- III. Smoking Cessation Assistance
  - a. Assistance Programs. The The Prince George's Health Department shall make available smoking cessation assistance to Tenants, which may include opportunities to participate in smoking cessation seminars, classes, and counseling smoking cessation products and materials.
  - b. Smoking Cessation Information. HAPGC resident Services shall be designated to answer questions, refer tenants to on-site and outside resources, and otherwise provide information about smoking cessation assistance options and opportunities
  
- IV. Implementation
  - a. This policy shall be administered by the HAPGC Housing Assistance Division .
  
  - b. Communication. The HAPGC Housing Assistance Division shall provide initial and ongoing information to communicate the requirements of this policy, including:
    - i. Dissemination of the key elements of the policy to tenants, staff, and others on websites and in appropriate written materials; and
    - ii. The placement of exterior and interior notices and signs announcing that smoking is prohibited.
  
  - c. Consequences. HAPGC Housing Assistance Division will establish appropriate procedures and consequences, which may include fines or disciplinary measures that do not exclude eviction, for violations of this policy.
  
  - d. 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 Housing Authority of Prince George's County office. The copy will be placed in the tenant's file.
  
  - e. Upon adoption of this policy, all tenants presently living in Housing Authority of Prince George's County properties will be given two copies of the policy. After review, the tenant will sign both copies

and return one to the Housing Authority of Prince George's County office for placement in the tenant's file.

TENANT CERTIFICATION

I have read and understand the above smoking policy and I agree to comply fully with the provisions. I understand that failure to comply may constitute reason for termination of my lease.

Resident Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Apartment Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing Authority of Prince George's County**  
**TEMPORARY SMOKING EXEMPTION FORM**

Resident Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As a current resident of *[insert property name]* and a smoker, I am requesting a temporary exemption from the Housing Authority of Prince George's County smoke-free policy adopted on [June 01, 2015]. I understand that my exemption will only apply to me and not any of my guests. I also realize that my exemption will only allow me to smoke in my own apartment or in designated smoking areas outside the building.

Further, I understand that should I move to another apartment in the building, or should I leave *[insert property name]* as a resident and then return as a new resident at a later time, my exemption will be permanently lost.

Further, I understand that this exemption is temporary and will expire on the date of my lease renewal, at which time I will be required to adhere to the no smoking policy adopted on [June 01, 2015].

Resident Signature: \_\_\_\_\_