

Smokefree Condominiums: Good for Your Health, Good for Your Bottom Line

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Condominium communities across Florida and Palm Beach County are going smokefree to protect the health of their residents and their bottom line. The primary benefit from implementing a smokefree condo policy is eliminating secondhand smoke. According to the American Lung Association, secondhand smoke exposure results in more than 41,000 deaths in the United States each year and causes numerous adverse health outcomes, such as lung cancer, heart disease and respiratory infections¹. The US Surgeon General has stated there is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has determined ventilation does not provide protection from secondhand smoke exposure and the only complete resolution is the implementation of smokefree policies^{2,3}.

Implementing a smokefree policy at your association has benefits beyond the critical protection from secondhand smoke exposure. A study found that units that allowed smoking had turnover cleaning costs doubled that of units that did not allow smoking⁴. Such costs include repainting walls, replacing ceiling, lighting fixtures, and replacing carpet. Fires caused by lit tobacco accounts for 14% of residential fire deaths in the United States, more than any other fire sources⁵.

Smokefree housing policies are legal. Smoking

is not a constitutional right and individuals who smoke are not a protected class⁶. Smokefree housing is in such high demand that apartment search engines now include “smokefree” as a housing amenity. Tobacco Free Florida in Palm Beach County has identified 176 multiunit housing communities (apartments, condos, public housing and assisted living facilities) that are smokefree. Our program has worked with over 20 communities to implement smokefree policies and have presented to numerous more on their benefits.

Providing linkage to cessation resources is a key component of our program’s policy efforts. Access to the free resources provided by the Tobacco Free Florida Quit Your Way program can help residents both acclimate to the new policy and succeed with their cessation efforts. Free tools and services are provided at no cost to Florida residents at www.tobaccofreeflorida.com/quityourway. For more information on the benefits of smokefree condominium policies, visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com/smokefreehousing or If you are interested in making your condo smokefree, please email us at chd5ofeedback@flhealth.gov.

¹ Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke. The American Lung Association. Accessed at <https://www.lung.org/quit-smoking/smoking-facts/>

health-effects/secondhand-smoke#:~:text=Health%20Effects%20of%20Secondhand%20Smoke%20Secondhand%20smoke%20is,adults%2C%20includin g%20lung%20cancer%2C%20respiratory%20infections%20and%20asthma.

² The Surgeon General’s Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke. Accessed at https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/2006/pdfs/no-risk-free.pdf

³ ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke. Accessed at https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd_environmental-tobacco-smoke-2020-07-1.pdf

⁴ Ong et al. Estimates of Smoking-Related Property Cost in California Multiunit Housing. American Journal of Public Health 102, no. 3 (March 1, 2012): pp 490-493.

⁵ The Benefit of Smokefree Buildings Fact Sheet. Americans for Nonsmokers Rights. Accessed at <https://no-smoke.org/benefits-of-smokefree-buildings-fact-sheet/>

⁶ There is No Constitutional Right To Smoke: 2008. Tobacco Control Legal Consortium. Accessed at <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/tclc-syn-constitution-2008.pdf>



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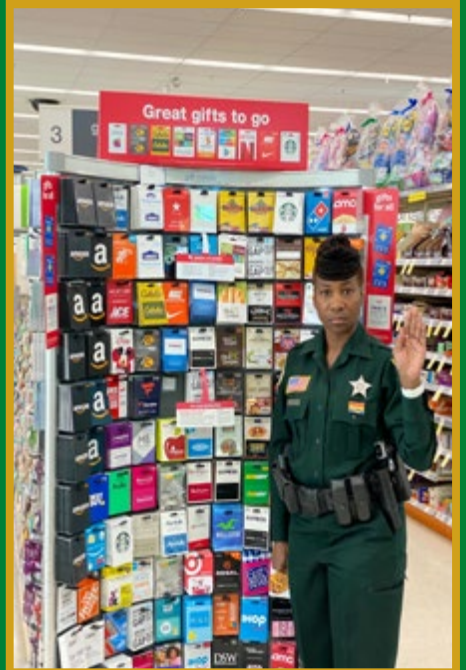
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