



Sample Letter from Resident to Property Manager

[Date]

Property Manager
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Property Manager,

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].

As a housing provider, I'm sure you want to keep your residents safe, healthy, and happy. I'd like you to consider adopting a smoke-free policy for our entire building in order to protect your renters from the health risks of secondhand smoke exposure.

Here are a few things you should know about secondhand smoke in rental 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. Building owners may be liable for allowing it in their buildings, just as they may be liable for asbestos, mold, or lead. Not addressing the smoke problem could set you up for legal problems or to suits under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **has stated that there is nothing in the law stating that apartment building managers cannot make their entire buildings smoke free.** The HUD field office in Minneapolis has made a similar ruling.

There is a program called Live Smoke Free that can help you through the process of adopting a smoke-free policy for your building. 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]
[Apartment Unit Number]

**This material may be modified for your own use. When modifying Live Smoke Free materials, we ask that you provide credit to Live Smoke Free by either keeping Live Smoke Free's logo on this document or using appropriate attribution language.*

Revised December 2013