

# **Lake County Housing Authority**

## **Smoke-Free Policy Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Why is LCHA making the buildings smoke-free?***

- LCHA is committed to providing safe, decent, and sanitary housing, and this policy helps fulfill this commitment by protecting the health and safety of residents, visitors, and employees.
- Everyone should be able to breathe clean, safe air, but unfortunately, a 2009 survey of our residents showed that half of the units that did not allow smoking inside still had smoke get in from somewhere else in or around the building.
- There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and smoldering cigarettes is the cause of one in ten apartment fires.
- Tobacco smoke is difficult and costly to clean because it sticks to walls, appliances, and carpeting. This will help keep costs down for everyone.

### ***When does it take effect?***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
1/1/2011	Main Office, Marion Jones Office, and Youth Center campuses
5/1/2011	Hawley, Kuester, Millview, Orchard and Warren Manors Shiloh and Beach Haven Towers
5/1/2012	Marion Jones Townhomes, single-family units & all other properties

### ***What does it cover?***

On the dates listed above, smoking will no longer be allowed at the following places:

- Inside and 20 feet around all LCHA buildings—this includes inside individual units and homes, personal balconies/patios, hallways, lobbies, elevators, laundry rooms, and enclosed stairwells.
- The entire grounds—indoors and out—of the Grayslake Main Office, Marion Jones Office and Youth Center.

### ***Do I still have to comply if I live in a single-family home?***

- Yes, because secondhand smoke increases both cleaning costs and fire risk, all LCHA property is included in the policy whether it is a single-family home or not. This will also protect future residents from secondhand smoke that remains trapped in the home even after it has been thoroughly cleaned.

### ***Where can I smoke?***

- If you are visiting the main office in Grayslake or the office/youth center by Marion Jones Townhomes after January 1, 2010, you may not smoke anywhere on the property. You have to leave the property before you can smoke.
- If you are at one of the senior housing properties after May 1, 2011 or any other LCHA rental property after May 1, 2012 (as listed above), you may smoke outside as long as you are at least 20 feet away from the building.

### ***Does this rule apply to visitors and staff too?***

- Yes. The smoke-free policy applies to everyone on the property. This includes residents, visitors, LCHA staff, home health care workers, cleaning services, utility workers, contractors, and vendors.

### ***If I don't smoke, is there anything I need to do?***

- Yes. You are responsible for letting all your visitors and guests know about the smoke-free policy. You should also notify LCHA anytime there is an incident of smoking or secondhand smoke drifting into your unit. *(See the next two questions for details of how to notify LCHA about possible violations.)*

### ***What do I do if I see someone smoking where they shouldn't?***

- Please make note of all the details of the incident, like the date, time, where you saw it, and a description of who it was. You can give this information to your housing manager, or send it anonymously to: Lake County Housing Authority, attn: Smoke Free Policy, 33928 North U.S. Highway 45, Grayslake IL 60030.

### ***What do I do if I smell smoke but don't know where it is coming from?***

- Unfortunately, LCHA can't guarantee that smoke will never get into your home, but we do want to try to prevent it whenever it is possible. If you smell smoke, but don't know where it is coming from, write down the date, time, and where you smell the smoke. You can give this information to your housing manager, or send it anonymously to: Lake County Housing Authority, attn: Smoke Free Policy, 33928 North U.S. Highway 45, Grayslake IL 60030.

### ***How can LCHA tell me what I can do in my own home?***

- Smoke-free rules are in the same category as “no pets” and “no loud noise” rules. They are legal policies that reduce property damage and protect the safety of residents and visitors.
- The rule is about the smoke, not the smoker. The smoke-free policy will not force anyone to quit smoking—only regulate where residents are allowed to smoke.

### ***What are the penalties for breaking the smoke-free policy?***

- The first violation will result in a \$100 fine.
- The second violation will result in a \$300 fine.
- The third violation will result in termination from the program and the tenant will be required to pay the cost for painting and cleaning the areas affected by smoking.

### ***Will LCHA help me quit smoking if I want to?***

- While the smoke-free policy is not forcing anyone to quit, LCHA realizes that some tenants might want to take this opportunity to quit smoking.
- Residents interested in quitting can sign up for a quit group at the rental office. Once eight or more residents sign up, a quit group can be held on-site.
- Free quit kits are also available in rental offices for interested quitters. The quit kit includes five full-color brochures that will walk you through the quit process. It includes information on topics like getting ready to quit, stress management, and nutrition.

### ***Where can I get more information?***

- If you still have questions, talk to your housing manager.

Technical assistance provided by the Tobacco Free Lake County program at the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center.