

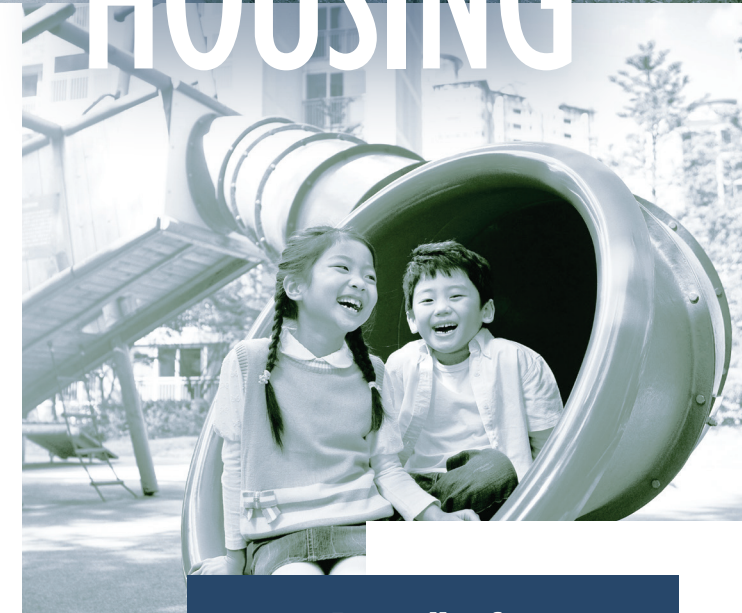


IS SECONDHAND SMOKE CLOUDING YOUR HEALTH?

Secondhand smoke (SHS) is a known human carcinogen and causes numerous preventable illnesses including heart disease, lung cancer, asthma and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. The Surgeon General of the United States has determined there is no safe level of exposure to SHS.

In multiunit housing complexes, residents may be exposed to SHS from nearby units. Secondhand smoke infiltrates surrounding units through shared heating/ventilation, around doors, even through lighting fixtures, cracks in walls, or around plumbing.

If you or your family are exposed to secondhand smoke, you are at increased risk for many preventable diseases. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to the effects of secondhand smoke, but everyone is adversely affected. It's not just a nuisance. It's a serious health hazard.



For more information visit
www.BreatheEasyOK.com.



Disclaimer: This information does not constitute legal advice. For legal advice contact an attorney.

**Remedies for
Tenants Exposed to
Secondhand Smoke.**

STEP 1:

CONTACT YOUR PROPERTY MANAGER.

If you suspect that secondhand smoke is infiltrating your residence, schedule a meeting with your landlord. Politely discuss your health concerns, and request a smokefree policy for your building and surrounding areas.

Because Oklahoma tobacco laws do not prohibit smoking in private residences, implementing a smokefree policy is the best method of eliminating indoor smoking in multi-unit housing. The nonsmoking policy can be incorporated into each lease in a nonsmoking building, usually over the course of a year.

If your landlord is unwilling to implement a smokefree policy, request to be moved to another unit away from the immediate threat. Working with your landlord is preferable to pursuing legal remedies.

STEP 2:

GATHER DOCUMENTATION.

- **Keep a detailed journal of the times and dates you smell secondhand smoke. Note where it seems to come from and how it affects your family.**
- **Get a note from your doctor stating how secondhand smoke affects your family's health.**
- **Make a list of fellow neighbors who are also affected and who are willing to help you address the problem.**
- **Continue working with your landlord toward a solution. More and more landlords are making entire buildings – and areas outside those buildings – smokefree.**

STEP 3:

EXPLORE OTHER APPROACHES.

In the event you feel compelled to take additional action, your interests may be protected through state and federal statutes including the following:

- **Oklahoma Landlord-Tenant Act.**
- **Federal Fair Housing Act.**
- **Americans with Disabilities Act.**

CONTACTS

The agencies listed here may be able to provide information and assist.

Metropolitan Fair Housing Council of Oklahoma, Inc.

1500 Northeast 4th Street, Suite 204
Oklahoma City, OK 73117
Phone (405) 232-3247
(covers entire state)

Oklahoma Office of Disability Concerns

2401 Northwest 23rd Street, Suite 90
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-2423
Phone (405) 521-3756 or (800) 522-8224

Oklahoma Attorney General's Office

Office of Civil Rights Enforcement Division
313 Northeast 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Phone (405) 521-2039

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Tulsa Field Office
Williams Center Tower II
2 West 2nd Street, Suite 400
Tulsa, OK 74103
Phone (918) 292-8900

Oklahoma City Field Office
301 Northwest 6th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Phone (405) 609-8509

