

# University of South Carolina Upstate



## Housing and Residential Life

### Roommate Contract

**Suite/Apartment #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RA's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle Residence Hall*

**Magnolia      Palmetto      Villas**

**Roommates' Full Name:**

(A) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

(B) \_\_\_\_\_

(D) \_\_\_\_\_

# Roommate Contract

Being a good roommate depends upon the ability to listen, communicate, and compromise. Conflicts with roommates may arise. Therefore it is important to establish rules and expectations before you need them. Many roommates assume that they understand each other's feelings and do not communicate about issues such as the use of personal belongings, having guests, and when the suite/apartment needs to be cleaned.

This contract reviews issues that are common among roommates and will help you and your roommates plan how to resolve them. It will also help you get to know your roommates better. This contract is also based upon the Campus Living Guide within your student handbook on page 157.

If issues can't be resolved with the contract then an RA or Assistant Director will help mediate the situation. This contract can be altered if a meeting is scheduled with the RA or AD and all parties agree on the changes.

## Rights of Residents

<u>Primary Rights</u>	<u>Subordinate Rights</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To read and study without interference, unreasonable noise, or other distractions</li><li>• To sleep</li><li>• To expect respect for personal belongings and property</li><li>• To live in a clean environment</li><li>• To have free access to your room and apartment facilities</li><li>• To have grievances/complaints addressed fairly and expediently</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To have personal privacy within your apartment</li><li>• To host guests provided that you escort your guests at all times and understand that you are responsible for their actions.</li><li>• Guests must abide by all USC Upstate HRL rules and regulations.</li></ul>

## Communicating with Roommates

- Respect your roommates by showing the same courtesy you expect from others.
- Communicate in person. Don't rely on notes, text messages, social media and emails.
- Be honest, respectful, and polite. Don't be intimidating, arbitrary or rude.
- Share your concerns before things get out of hand.
- Explain respectfully what is bothering you and help your roommates understand why.
- Listen carefully. Try to see things from your roommates' perspective.
- Do not rely on others (family or friends) to solve your roommate problems.
- Do not interrupt each other when discussing problems.
- Do not spread rumors about your roommates. If there is a problem, discuss it with your roommates.
- Seek assistance from your Resident Advisor or Assistant Director when things cannot be worked out between you and your roommates.

**You are required to fill out each part with some information, if more space is required use the back of the page.**

## **I. Introductions**

**Discuss the following:**

1. How are your classes going?
2. Which do you feel will be your most successful? Which class will be your most challenging?
3. Have you ever shared a room with someone else?

## **II. Communication**

**Discuss the following in terms of living arrangements and roommates.**

1. I may get annoyed or angry if a roommate were to...
2. How will your roommate know when you are annoyed or angry?
3. I prefer to be left alone when...

## **III. Personal Belongings**

**Circle yes or no based on consensus.**

**Use of each other's possessions (discuss in room verses not in room):**

- |                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| • DVDs                | YES / NO |
| • TV                  | YES / NO |
| • Stereo/CDs          | YES / NO |
| • Clothes             | YES / NO |
| • Personal Care Items | YES / NO |
| • Computer            | YES / NO |
| • Appliances          | YES / NO |
| • Food                | YES / NO |
| • Laundry Detergent   | YES / NO |
| • Other items: _____  | YES / NO |
| • Other items: _____  | YES / NO |
| • Other items: _____  | YES / NO |
| • Other items: _____  | YES / NO |

**If any items can be used please describe in what circumstances (in room/not in room/by guests/without asking/asking every time):**

#### IV. Cleaning

**Set a cleaning schedule for common areas. Determine when to clean and who will be responsible.**

Example

	Trash	Sweep	Vacuum	Bathroom	Dishes	Dust	Mop	Shower
Person 1	Mon.				As	Thurs		
Person 2				Fri	We		Tues.	
Person 3		Wed	Thurs		Use			
Person 4				Fri.	them			Sat.

Name of Roommates	Trash	Sweep	Vacuum	Bathroom	Dishes/Kitchen	Dust	Mop	Shower

**Any comments/special circumstances:**

1. If the condition of the room becomes a concern for any roommate, we agree to resolve it by:
2. Are there any concerns or requests for the cleanliness and neatness of individual areas?

\*during Health and Inspections all roommates will be equally held accountable for the conditions of their space, regardless of the cleaning schedule\*

#### V. Quiet Hours & Guests

**All residents must observe quiet hours and the guest policy.**

**Read about quiet hours and the guest policy in the Student Handbook in the Housing and Residential Life section.**

1. Shall there be additional quiet hours for our suite and apartment? If so, what times and days?
2. What are the restrictions on guests who are just friends? What about romantic guests?

#### VI. Sleeping & Studying

1. If someone is trying to study in their room anytime during the day and/or night is it okay for others to do the following:

- Talk on the phone YES/NO
- Work on the computer YES/NO
- Have guests YES/NO
- Have the lights on YES/NO
- Watch TV YES/NO
- Listen to music YES/NO

2. If someone is trying to sleep in their room anytime during the day and/or night is it okay for others to do the following:

- Talk on the phone YES/NO
- Work on the computer YES/NO
- Have guests YES/NO
- Have the lights on YES/NO
- Watch TV YES/NO
- Listen to music YES/NO

3. If someone is asleep in the room and I need to get something, I will...

**VII. Violations**

Here are some suggested ways to resolve roommate contract violations:

- Talk to your roommates about the issues (talk, not text, leave notes, social media or email)
  - If you need talking points, ask your RA
- Set up a meeting with your RA to discuss, as a group

Additional consequences of Roommate Contract violations will be left up to the discretion of the Assistant Director. This could include re-assignment of rooms, if necessary.

**If this contract is deemed inappropriately or insufficiently completed it will be turned back over to your respective RA, and you will be required to meet with them, to complete it again.**

We, the residents of suite/apartment # \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (building/ hall) agree to sign this Roommate Agreement to confirm that it was completed through civil dialogue and group consensus. It is our personal responsibility to uphold and honor this agreement, as by our signatures below:

A) \_\_\_\_\_ c) \_\_\_\_\_  
 B) \_\_\_\_\_ d) \_\_\_\_\_

**Date signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Return the completed roommate contract to your RA after at least one of your roommates attended the MANDATORY roommate workshop (Sept 1-12). It will be kept on file in the Housing Office as verification that you and your roommates completed a roommate agreement. You and your roommates may access, review, and revise the roommate agreement at any time.