

## Sample Resident to Landlord Letter

(Date)

Dear (Landlord's Name),

I am writing this letter to inform you that I (and any others in your residence) am/are suffering from exposure to the dangerous toxins of secondhand smoke in my/our living environment. Secondhand smoke has been seeping into my/our residence from (neighboring units, common areas, doorway, windows, other).

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on secondhand smoke states that "there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke." Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard causing approximately 53,000 deaths each year from heart disease, respiratory disease and cancer. The Surgeon General's report states that secondhand smoke can cause asthma in children and adults and has been linked to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The elderly and people with heart or breathing problems are especially vulnerable to the dangerous toxins in secondhand smoke.

In addition, in 2005 the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) published a position document that states no form of ventilation can effectively eliminate the dangerous toxins and gases of secondhand smoke. I have tried to get rid of the secondhand smoke (by sealing off my apartment, running a fan, asking neighbors to smoke outside, other) to fix or at least alleviate the dangers of this situation. However, these efforts have not proven effective. I would like to request that you consider (a smoking policy change in the form of a lease addendum or house rule, conducting a survey to see how many residents would prefer smoke-free housing). I have also enclosed a sample survey to give to residents and a factsheet about the advantages of going smokefree. If you'd like more information or sample policies go to [www.SmokeFreeHousingAK.org](http://www.SmokeFreeHousingAK.org) or call the American Lung Association at 907-931-5470. I look forward to positive changes here at (housing complex). Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

(Resident's Name)

### Helpful Hints:

- If you have a physician's letter, enclose a copy.
- Send letter with certification of mailing to prove it was received
- Keep copies of all letters
- Document all conversations about smokefree housing.
- If you have any questions/comments, contact the American Lung Association at 907-931-5470 or [SmokeFreeHousingAK@lung.org](mailto:SmokeFreeHousingAK@lung.org)