

**Roommate Questionnaire**

Before you move into shared housing, there are some rules that require discussion and agreement on the part of both families. They include the following.

1. Your unit has only one kitchen.
   1. How will you decide when each family eats, and for how long?
   2. Where will you store your food so that each family has separate space?
   3. Will you have separate cooking utensils and dishware, or will you share?
   4. Will you have rules for kitchen use outside of meal times?
2. Both families will have furniture. How will you furnish the common areas, particularly the living room and dining room?
   1. Is it agreeable that both families may use all of the furniture in the common areas?
   2. Who will clean the common areas? Will a schedule be set up? And how will cleaning supplies for the common areas be purchased and stored?
3. How will payment of utilities be divided? And what will be included under utilities (eg., cable, wi-fi, gas, electricity, water)?
4. If there are laundry facilities in the apartment, how will use be scheduled?
5. Each family will bring its own standards for acceptable behavior. But there may be some differences in what’s regarded as acceptable. There should be agreement on these baseline issues.
   1. Will smoking be allowed?
   2. What are the rules for receiving guests?
      1. Daytime only?
      2. Overnight—and, if so, what frequency, and length of stay?
      3. For meals?
      4. What advance notice should families give one another?
   3. How will consumption of alcoholic beverages be handled?
   4. Will either family use any recreational drugs in the apartment?
   5. What standards does each family use in the discipline of their children?
      1. Is physical discipline (spanking) permitted?
      2. Are time-outs or any other form of discipline used?
      3. If the parents of a child are out of the apartment, to what extent may the other parents discipline a misbehaving child. (That is, having a baseline for what constitutes misbehavior.)
      4. Will there be a curfew for the children?
6. Will guns or any other weapons be allowed in the apartment? If yes, where and how will they be stored?
7. If pets are allowed by the landlord, what pets, if any, can be agreed upon by the families? And how will their care be managed?
8. Will both families agree never to loan or give money to the other? If loans or gifts are acceptable, under what conditions are they given and repaid?

Please note that the answers to the above questions can function as a way to predict compatibility. The families themselves will have to determine which differences constitute a deal-breaker.