

Secondhand Smoke Exposure COMPLAINT FLOW CHART - BELMONT



Smoke from Neighbor's Unit Entering Your Unit

Write down where smoking is entering your home, when it is happening, and how it is affecting you and other members of your household. Put dates if you can. Belmont prohibits smoking in all apartments, condominiums, and townhouses that share at least one common floor or ceiling with another such unit. Then decide when it would be the best time to approach the neighbor, or if not feasible, the manager or landlord. Also, check with other neighbors to see if the smoke bothers them as well. Try to be as calm as possible when you approach the neighbor and manager.

You speak with neighbor and explain to him how the smoke is affecting you and the law that prohibits smoking in housing.

Neighbor agrees to work with you to figure out where he can smoke without bothering you.
Problem Solved

Neighbor is non-receptive and hostile or agrees to stop but does not or stops for awhile and then starts up

You speak with manager. Inform him that you believe the Belmont ordinance banning smoking in all apartments and condominiums is being violated. Have your notes with you and take notes as to his/her response.

If he agrees to take care of the problem, ask when you can expect him to get back to you on the outcome. If not resolved within a week or so, then

He says that he doesn't think it is his responsibility to enforce the law and you're on your own.

Manager says he'd like to convert the building to *non-smoking* but doesn't know how.

Contact:
City of Belmont
Code Enforcement
650.637.2968
Kirk Buckman

Refer him to:
American Lung Association,
510-893-5474

RESOURCES

For fact sheets on options for tenants, the disabled, and landlords, go to the Technical Assistance Legal Center's website at:
www.talc.phi.org