

Roommate Bill of Rights

It is important to note that a room is a private space that should be shared equally by both roommates/suitemates/apartment-mates. As a responsible roommate, it is not appropriate to engage in any activity which would deny your roommate access to the room, or make them feel uncomfortable while in the room. When one roommate has a friend or friends visiting, it is always with the consent of the other roommate(s). When this isn't happening and roommates cannot figure out how to confront the problem, we suggest involving one of the Residence Life staff (RAs, ACs, RDs or GAs). Please be aware that, should roommates not be able to come to a resolution, or should one roommate continue to exhibit behavior that is inconsiderate or inappropriate, the Residence Life staff may take further action to resolve the conflict. This may include disciplinary action or a room change.

For some, living with a roommate may be a new experience. You will find that sharing a room with another person(s) requires open and honest communication, cooperation, and compromise. Relationships of any kind involve a bit of work, some give and take, and an understanding of each other. The rights listed below are a suggested basis for agreements between roommates. Time discussing these rights would be well spent and hopefully form the basis for communication between you and your roommate(s). To a large extent, your relationship with a roommate is dependent on mutual consideration of the feelings and needs of the other person. Please remember that with every right goes the responsibility to respect that same right when it is exercised by another person(s).

- The right to read, study and sleep free from undue interference from roommates and guests and to give the same courtesy in return.
- The right to expect that one's personal property will be respected and that reasonable security of one's room will be maintained, and the responsibility to afford such respect and security to one's roommates.
- The right to a reasonably clean environment and the responsibility to do one's fair share in maintaining such an environment.
- The right to free access to one's room and the responsibility to afford the same courtesy to one's roommates.
- The right to a reasonable level of personal privacy and the responsibility to respect roommates' privacy.
- The right to host guests in accordance with residence hall rules and regulations and the responsibility to ensure that one's guests and oneself demonstrate respect and courtesy for roommates.
- The right to expect that residence hall rules and regulations will be followed in the room such that no person is put at risk of harm and the responsibilities to follow rules oneself and report violations appropriately.
- The right to be free from pressure, intimidation, physical or emotional harm, and behavior that demeans or disrespects one's identity and the responsibility to not to engage in any such behavior toward others.
- The right to address grievances and needs constructively, privately or with the assistance of hall staff, and the responsibility to participate in norm-setting or conflict resolution measures whenever necessary, to include Roommate Agreements.
- The right to expect compromise in the negotiation of standards and the settling of conflicts and the responsibility to demonstrate compromise.
- The right to timely, respectful communication of any concerns and the responsibility to respond in an open, approachable manner.
- The right to experience and to appropriately articulate one's feelings when desired and the responsibility to respect others' feelings.

(Adopted from the University of Cincinnati)