

RESIDENTIAL LIFE & HOUSING JUDICIAL PROCEDURES & POLICIES

CODE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Consistent with the mission set forth by Rhode Island College, the Office of Residential Life & Housing maintains that a residential living environment conducive to academic, social, and personal growth depends on the willingness of the members of its community to interact in such a way that individual freedom and responsibility towards others exists. This goal can be best served in an atmosphere of personal self-discipline, guided by the principle of respect for the rights of others and of the community, and reinforced by the policies and procedures set forth by the Office of Residential Life & Housing. Rhode Island College residents, therefore, should acknowledge these expectations, and accept the responsibility for the consequences of their actions, when said behavior is inconsistent with the philosophy stated herein. Judicial procedures, which follow, will be implemented when any Residential Life & Housing policies are violated or when a behavior is found to be inconsistent with the philosophy put forth by the Office of Residential Life & Housing. It is also understood that students whose behavior clearly indicates an incompatibility with the goals of the department may be asked to leave the residence halls. Rhode Island College is required by law to refer certain types of offenses to civil authorities. The college and the Office of Residential Life & Housing cannot and will not offer protection if and when civil authorities become legally involved in any case.

1. PERSONAL INTEGRITY & SELF RESPECT

The Office of Residential Life & Housing is dedicated to the development of students academically, socially, and personally. As such, the Office of Residential Life & Housing expects that integrity and self-respect will be demonstrated by one's own commitment to responsible personal behavior and by a willingness to offer assistance to others whose behavior appears harmful to themselves or to the community. To this end, the Office of Residential Life & Housing offers a staff of trained para-professionals and professionals to assist students in their own personal development and to provide educational programming and referrals, for the benefit of the individuals and the community. In addition, residents are expected not to abuse their minds or bodies by the use of harmful or illegal drugs, including the use of alcohol.

2. RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS AND CONCERNS OF OTHERS

The Office of Residential Life & Housing expects that in all relationships with each other, residents will be guided by a mutual concern for each other's feelings, integrity, and the need to live in an environment conducive to academic and personal achievement. These interactions, whether between members of the same or opposite sex, between races, between members of different sexual orientations, or between residents and staff, will be tempered with sensitivity and a sense of responsibility towards others. Within each residential unit, there shall be a commitment to actively promote racial and cultural understanding and to deal honestly, openly, and equitably with all residents. It is expected that all residents will respect each other's privacy and will not subject others to indecent exposure, inappropriate gestures, vulgarity, etc. To facilitate these goals, the Office of Residential Life & Housing will provide education, guidance, and counseling in areas of personal relationships, and will attempt to create and maintain an environment in which diversity is believed to be an essential component of the residential community.

3. RESPECT FOR COLLEGE PROPERTY

The Office of Residential Life & Housing expects that residents will regard property of Rhode Island College as a component of residential living in which they have a vested interest and responsibility to maintain. Living in a residence hall connotes the right to a comfortable living environment, but also includes the contractual and moral obligation to abstain from unnecessary destruction of college and personal property. In addition to financial restitution for damages done to college property, exceptional amounts of damage may be considered violations of the Code of Social Responsibility, subject to administrative