Residence Hall Bill of Rights

Summary/Purpose: This policy defines the basic expectations students should have for each other when living together in a residence hall environment.

In a group living situation, it is important for you to understand your rights as a student and your responsibilities to others. The rights to study and sleep are considered primary in the residence hall environment. Your major purpose for enrollment is to pursue an education. Excessive noise and distraction inhibit this goal. Therefore, when you choose to exercise a subordinate privilege, such as playing your stereo or entertaining guests, it is your responsibility to make sure that you or your guests are not inhibiting another person's rights to sleep or study.

When you enroll as an Ole Miss student and sign your housing agreement, you are agreeing to abide by the policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of Ole Miss as outlined in the M-Book: Handbook of Standards and Activities, Living and Learning at Ole Miss, and Roomers. As a student you are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of these publications.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of residence hall living is the opportunity to live and work closely with all types of people. Certain responsibilities are inherent in a roommate relationship. While there must be a balance between roommates as to time and priority of room usage, the rights to study and to sleep in one's room outweigh any social privileges. Roommates must take the responsibility to assert their rights in using the room. Hall staff can be helpful in working with residents in this area.

The University has some basic expectations that govern the special nature of interpersonal relationships in the residence halls. These are reasonable expectations that the students should have for one another while sharing space in residence halls. The Residence Hall Bill of Rights outlines these expectations:

- The right to sleep during the night undisturbed.
- The right to study in one's room free of noise and distractions during quiet hours.
- The right of access to one's room and facilities.
- The right to feel secure against physical or emotional harm.
- The right to a clean room and clean common areas.
- The right to have one's belongings respected.
- The right to have guests in the room when they will not disturb your roommates' right to sleep or study.
- The right to privacy.
- The right to redress grievances.

These rights apply to all students living in on-campus housing. Violating the rights of other students may result in disciplinary actions and/or reassignment to another location.