Common Area Damage and Group Billing

Summary/Purpose: This policy explains Student Housing and Residence Life’s approach to damage and vandalism in the public areas of residence halls and apartments.

Damage to common areas is a more difficult and complicated matter, one that is also the responsibility of each resident. The Department of Student Housing and Residence Life has attempted over a period of time to resolve the difficulty of damages to public areas and the related problem of defraying costs for such damages. Room or common area damage may result in the reassignment or cancellation of the housing contract of those person(s) found to be responsible. If the responsible person(s) cannot be determined, the entire community may share the cost of this damage, whether it occurred in a wing, floor, or entire building.

Damage charges are used to assist in repairing or replacing damaged items. Repairs or replacements not completed before the next academic year begins will be completed as soon as possible depending on the availability of personnel and/or additional necessary funds. Damage charges also can cover the cost the University incurs when students exhibit inappropriate behavior such as setting off false fire alarms, or stealing University property. Trash/ belongings in the exterior or common areas of the building may be removed immediately and cleaning charges can be assessed without prior notice.

Faulty equipment and damage should be reported to a staff member. If there is damage in a room, do not attempt to repair it yourself because this often increases the cost of the final repairs. University personnel are trained to provide repairs and can remedy the situation in a short time.

Common area damage assessments cannot be appealed because they are not fines. They are made up of the time, materials and administrative expense, required to correct unusual cleaning or damage situations.