The University of Mississippi

COMMON AREA DAMAGE AND GROUP BILLING

Summary/Purpose: This is Student Housing’s Common Area Damage and Group Billing Policy. It defines common areas and the procedure for group billing should no person(s) be identified as responsible for damage that occurs in a residential hall.

Common Areas are defined as lobbies, hallways, lounges and recreation rooms, public bathrooms, kitchens, elevators, etc. Residents may be liable for damages that occur to University property within a specific building.

Damage to common areas is a difficult and complicated matter, one that is also the responsibility of each resident. The Department of Student Housing 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 will be completed as soon as possible depending on the availability of personnel and/or additional necessary funds. Damage charges can also 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, students are urged not to attempt to repair it 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.

Your contract explains that when common areas in a residence facility receive undue abuse, we expect the assistance of the residents of that area in finding the person(s) responsible. When the person(s) cannot be identified, all residents will be required to pay a prorated share of repairing such damages.