

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE RENTING AN APARTMENT

- How much is the rent and when is it due?
- What is included in the rent payment? Utilities? Electricity? Phone? Cable TV?
- Do you require a Security Deposit?
- Lease Questions:
 - Will you return my Security Deposit when I leave?
 - How long is the lease? How will I be penalized if I break the lease? Does the lease renew automatically or do I need to request a renewed lease? How much notice needs to be given before I can terminate the lease agreement?
 - Is subletting allowed? (Subletting occurs when you are the registered tenant in the apartment but when you leave for a period of time, you allow someone else to live in your apartment and pay rent to you.)
- Are storage facilities available? Are there additional charges?
- Are there laundry facilities in or near the apartment?
- Are both furnished and unfurnished apartments available?
- Do you permit pictures to be hung on the walls or allow any type of improvements to be made?
- Where is the nearest grocery store and shopping areas?
- What kind of security is there? What is the crime rate in the area?
- If you have a car or motorcycle:
 - Is parking available and what kind is it? Garage? Parking lot? On-the-street parking?
 - Are there charges for parking? Is there lighting in the parking area?
- If you have a pet:
 - Are pets allowed? Is there a pet deposit? If so, how much and is it refundable?
- If you have children:
 - Do you allow children? What ages are allowed? Are there additional charges?
 - Do you have child care facilities?
 - Are there safe play areas available?
 - Where are the nearest schools and what transportation is available to each school?

NOTE: Make sure that you get everything in writing. Check the condition of the apartment with the leasing agent or owner present and make a list of anything that needs repair. You should ask that any major repairs or cleaning be done before you move in. Get the agent's signature on the items that are in bad shape or need to be fixed so that you will not be charged for those items when you vacate the apartment.