

ROOMMATE ISSUES

Finding a Roommate

Most students find roommates through friends or friends of friends. If you are new to the community, or need help finding roommates, check out the [Roommates Wanted Message Board](#) of the Off Campus Housing Service. Some apartment management companies offer roommate matching and roommate placement services.

Roommate matching services connect students based on their stated preferences in the areas of study time, interests, and lifestyle. **Roommate placement services** house students based on available space without consideration of study or social preferences.

Choosing a Roommate

Compatibility issues can result in misunderstandings and unpleasant living situations. Discuss the following topics with potential roommates before signing a lease with another person(s).

- Study and sleep habits and expectations
- Smoking and drinking habits
- Cleaning common spaces
- Cooking, shopping, and kitchen clean-up
- Refrigerator space and sharing food
- Money issues and paying bills
- Financial stability – consider sharing credit reports
- Overnight guests and boyfriends/girlfriends
- Sharing personal products and music/electronics/bikes
- Ask about signing separate leases – each roommate is responsible for only their portion of the rent
- Pets
- Conflict resolution
- Consider signing a [roommate agreement](#)

Problems with Roommates

Unresolved conflicts with roommates can affect your personal comfort and your studies. Consider the following options:

- Roommate Mediation Services are offered to UI students through the Office of the Ombudsperson. Call 319-335-3608 for information
- Talk to the landlord/property management office. Some larger complexes allow transferring to another unit

- Find someone to sublease your part of the lease. This requires approval from your landlord.

Note: A lease is a binding document. It is not an option to move out. You will be held responsible for the rent for the entire period of the lease. Violation of your lease will result in court costs and have a negative impact on your credit history.

DISCLAIMER

Information provided on this web site pertaining to tenant/landlord issues and procedures is general information about Iowa Tenant/Landlord Law. ([See Chapter 562A Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Law](#)) The information pertains to Iowa law. If you are viewing this site from another state you should be aware that this area of law may differ from state to state.

Before you take any action based on information from this site, please seek legal advice. Your questions and facts are specific to your case. Therefore, information on this site cannot substitute for legal advice from an attorney practicing in your jurisdiction. Again, you should consult an attorney before taking any legal action based on information found on this site.

[UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES](#)

157 Iowa Memorial Union

319-335-3276