

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency-Sheriff, Fire & Poison Control	911
Pinellas County Sheriff-Information	727.464.6415
Carlton Arms of St. Petersburg Office	727.867.8685
Carlton Arms Fax	727.867.6310
Duke Energy	877.372.8477
Spectrum Cable TV	888.289.8988

## HOSPITALS

Bayfront Health - St. Petersburg	727.893.6136
St. Petersburg General Hospital	727.521.5485
St. Anthony's Hospital	727.825.1100
St. Anthony's Cancer Center	727.825.1253
Bay Pines VA Health Care	727.398.6661
Palms of Pasadena Hospital	727.381.1000
Florida Cancer Institute	727.842.8411
Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital	727.898.7451

# CARLTON ARMS

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St. Petersburg

## Resident Guide



Rev. 03/21

6699 31st Way South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
727.867.8685  
[www.carltonarmsofstpetersburg.com](http://www.carltonarmsofstpetersburg.com)

### 31. WILDLIFE

- Do not feed the wildlife or stray animals, birds, ducks, and raccoons.
- Feeding of alligators is prohibited by Florida Fish & Wildlife.

# Welcome

to your new  
apartment community

It is our wish that you enjoy every day of your residency here in your new apartment. This 55+ community is designed for your pleasure and convenience, with prompt and courteous service as our goal.

We believe we have the finest apartment community in this area, both architecturally and in the quality of service afforded to our valued residents. We want to do everything possible to assure your complete comfort and enjoyment of your new home. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help in any way.

This may be your first experience in an apartment. As in any home, there are do's and don'ts. We are no different – just bigger! There is no reason for any policy to be made “against you,” but simply for the benefit of all our residents.

We truly want you to be happy here. We want to give you privacy and enable you to enjoy all the benefits of apartment living. Carlton Arms St. Petersburg (CASP) can provide this environment, with the cooperation of each and every resident.

The Resident Guide is arranged in alphabetical order with a table of contents on the opposite page for easy reference.

If you have any questions regarding our policies, services, or facilities, please contact us at **727.867.8685** or **info@carltonarmsofstpetersburg.com**.

### **CASP Management Office Hours**

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



We are an equal housing opportunity provider. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability, or familial status (having children under age 18).

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. ANIMALS .....	3
2. APARTMENT CARE .....	3
A. AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING .....	3
B. APPLIANCES .....	3
C. BATHROOM FACILITIES .....	4
D. CARPET CARE .....	4
E. COUNTER TOPS .....	5
F. ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS .....	5
G. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS .....	5
H. FLOORING: TILE, VINYL AND PLANK .....	5
3. BALCONIES & PATIOS .....	6
4. CAR CARE .....	6
5. CARPORTS .....	6
6. CLUBHOUSE .....	7
7. COMMON USAGE AREAS .....	7
8. CONSIDERATION OF NEIGHBORS .....	7
9. DECORATING .....	8
10. DOCK FACILITIES .....	8
11. EXTERMINATING .....	8
12. FITNESS CENTER .....	9
13. GRILLS .....	9
14. GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS .....	10
15. INSURANCE .....	10
16. KEYS .....	10
17. LAUNDRY CENTER .....	10
18. LOCK OUTS .....	11
19. MAINTENANCE REQUESTS .....	11
20. PARKING .....	11
21. RENTAL PAYMENTS .....	12
22. RESIDENT SERVICES STAFF .....	12
23. SAFETY .....	13
24. SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER BLADES, ROLLER SKATES, SCOOTERS, HOVER BOARDS .....	14
25. SPEED LIMIT .....	14
26. SWIMMING POOL .....	14
27. TRASH COLLECTION .....	15
28. TV ANTENNAS .....	15
29. VIDEO SURVEILLANCE .....	15
30. VISITORS .....	15
31. WILDLIFE .....	16

- Behavior, which disturbs the enjoyment of other residents or guests, will not be tolerated. No running, pushing, fighting, profanity, loud music or verbal assaults allowed. Those in violation will be asked to vacate the area.
- Bicycles are not permitted in the pool area.

## 27. TRASH COLLECTION

- Trash removal is scheduled twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Management provides containers for the deposit of **bagged** trash.
- **BAG ALL OF YOUR TRASH** to prevent an abundance of insects.
- All trash, refuse, and newspapers are to be placed in these containers at the rear of the apartments.
- Keep the lids on these containers securely fastened at all times.
- Large boxes must be broken down and placed in the trash alcoves on trash removal days.
- Each trash alcove must be kept clean and tidy by the individual residents.
- Garbage areas are not to be used for storage. Any bicycles, grills, etc. found in the trash areas will be considered abandoned and will be removed.
- For disposal of large items, such as furniture, TVs etc. please call the office to make arrangements. There will be a nominal charge for such service.

## 28. TV ANTENNAS

- Radio antennas, satellite and/or TV antennas cannot be erected on any part of the premises without prior consent.

## 29. VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

- Non-monitored video surveillance equipment has been situated at the entrance, as well as other common areas.

## 30. VISITORS

- Only those individuals listed on the approved Application for Lease are permitted to occupy the apartment.
- Residents must inform Management of any visitor(s) staying an extended period of time, and also must notify Management if any persons occupy the apartment during their absence.
- All residents are responsible for the actions of their guests and invitees.
- All invitees including guests, delivery or repair persons should stop at the Front Entrance Pavilion, when attended, to provide information about their destination before proceeding.

## 24. SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER BLADES

### ROLLER SKATES, SCOOTERS, HOVER BOARDS

- Out of concern for the safety of all residents, the use of skateboards, roller blades, roller skates, scooters and hover boards is not permitted anywhere on CASP property.

## 25. SPEED LIMIT

- **The posted speed limit on the property is 15 mph.**
- Vehicles should be operated with care within the community.
- Traffic signs and speed limits are for everyone's safety.
- Speed limit is governed by street conditions, never to exceed 15 mph.

## 26. SWIMMING POOL

### Hours Open: Sunrise to Sunset

- The pool is for the pleasure and enjoyment of Carlton Arms' residents.
- Residents may not, without prior consent from the Office, bring more than two (2) guests to the pool and patio area.
- Guests must be accompanied by a resident. To ensure the enjoyment of the pool by our CASP residents, it may be necessary to further limit guest privileges. We request residents use discretion when bringing guests whenever the pool is crowded.
- We reserve the right to deny pool privileges to any resident or guest for violation of the policies, or to close the pool at any time for maintenance.
- Anyone under the age of 14 must be accompanied by and under the supervision of, an adult at all times in the pool and pool area.
- CASP is a designated 55+ Adult Community. Due to this classification, no one under the age of 14 is allowed in the pool and/or pool area after 2pm on Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays.
- Management is not responsible for accidents.
- **Swim at your own risk.** There is no lifeguard on duty.
- No glass containers allowed in the swimming pool and/or pool area.
- Floats or rubber balls are not allowed in the swimming pool.
- Pets are never allowed in the pool, patio, clubhouse, fitness center or laundry room.
- Do not remove any furniture from the pools or patio areas.
- Place all refuse in the trash containers provided in the pool area.
- Proper swimming apparel ONLY is allowed in the pool area; no street clothes or offensive attire is permitted.
- Reasonable conduct is required at the pool and pool area.

## 1. ANIMALS

- Pets and/or animals of any kind may not be on the premises unless prior written consent is obtained from the Management Office.
- Carlton Arms' pet policy requires that all pets weigh under 35 pounds at full maturity.
- Pet owners and their pets are subject to certain rules and regulations as specified in the pet addendum.
- Temporary and/or visiting pets are not allowed.
- We accept only dogs, cats, birds and fish. No exotic pets, rodents, reptiles, etc. allowed.
- Two animal limit per apartment.
- Breed restrictions apply.
- Service animals are welcome after written documentation for all reasonable accommodation requests for such animal has been completed. Fair Housing laws allow for landlords to request third party verification of such requests.

## 2. APARTMENT CARE

### A. AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING

- The fan should be set to the AUTO position for the most economical and even temperature results.
- Thermostat should be set on automatic and heat or cool, as desired.
- Do not block supply registers or return air grills.
- Do not place anything on or around the A/C condensing unit on the patio or balcony; allow 12" clearance all around the unit.
- When turning on the heater for the first time at the beginning of cooler weather, you may detect a burning odor. This is caused by the build-up of dust on the coils. This odor will dissipate after a short time.
- We recommend that the a/c filter be changed on a regular basis. Please call the office to schedule.

### B. APPLIANCES

#### 1. Dishwasher

- ALWAYS scrape dishes before loading into the machine. Use only liquid automatic dishwasher soap.

#### 2. Garbage Disposal

- Disposals should be used for wet garbage only.
- Do not place bones, rinds, metals, or coffee grounds, potato skins, etc. down the disposal.
- Do not overload the unit.
- Keep COLD water running before, during, and after the operation

of the unit.

- Do not use a drain cleaner down the disposal.
- If the unit jams, turn the operating switch on and off several times in rapid succession.
- Should the disposal fail to start, press the RESET button located on the base of the disposal, under the sink.

### 3. Stove/Oven

- When cleaning the stove, do not use steel wool, abrasives, acids, or commercial oven cleaners on the metal, glass, or painted surfaces.
- Please use care when using your stove.
- Leaving a pot or pan *unattended* for even a very brief period of time can quickly result in a grease fire that can cause major damage.

## C. BATHROOM FACILITIES

Clogged up drains and sewer back-ups can be prevented by carefully following the guidelines below:

- NEVER dispose of sanitary napkins, tampons or applicators, paper towels, toilet wipes, diapers, Q-tips, chewing gum, cigarettes or cat litter, etc. in toilets.
- If the toilet does overflow, IMMEDIATELY turn off the water at the shut off valve located behind the fixture.
- If unable to clear the clog with the use of a plunger, call the office for assistance.
- Help control unnecessary water loss by monitoring your plumbing fixtures for leaky faucets, faulty flappers and flush valves. If you notice a toilet running constantly or cycling on and off when not in use, please report it immediately so maintenance can make repairs.

## D. CARPET CARE

Simple remedies and techniques for removing stains from carpeting include:

- Scrape, blot or absorb the excess immediately, use a spoon or the back of a knife for semi-solids or greasy substances. For liquids, blot with an absorbent cloth or paper towel. Prepare a solution of (3) parts lukewarm water to (1) part white vinegar and blot. Avoid excessive rubbing and wetting of the carpet.
- Do not place furniture on wet carpet.
- Do not place potted plants directly on the carpet without protection.
- Carpet should be vacuumed routinely. High traffic areas may require more frequent vacuuming.

staffed by an attendant who is a member of our Resident Services Staff. Attendants' duties are to attempt to log in all non-resident vehicles entering the community grounds, give directions to visitors and guide emergency responders. After normal business hours and on holidays, the attendant responds to residents' questions and complaints and notifies emergency maintenance personnel in the event a resident has an emergency maintenance problem.

- In addition to the attendant at the entrance pavilion, there are also members of the Resident Services Staff who periodically circulate throughout the property to, among other duties, assure that the facilities are being properly utilized, report any rule violations, direct traffic, respond to residents' nuisance calls, inspect and flag non-functioning exterior lights, deliver notices from management to residents, guide and assist delivery trucks and moving vans, and give access to and accompany authorized contractors and inspectors to residents' dwellings.
- Members of RSS are NOT Security Officers. In the event of an emergency other than a maintenance problem, call 911 or the St. Petersburg Police Department Office at 727.893.7780.

## 23. SAFETY

- Get to know your neighbors.
- Follow basic safety practices that will help you protect yourself, your apartment, and the overall community.
- Lock deadbolts at all times. Close and lock all doors and windows when you leave or retire for the night.
- Do not rely on auxiliary locks that leave window/doors partially open.
- Do not leave your patio door or screen door unlocked when you are not at home.
- Do not open the door without knowing who is at the door and what they want.
- Leave your patio/balcony light "ON" at night.
- Keep your patio/balcony free of clutter.
- Keep your vehicle locked and do not leave items of value in plain sight. These items will be more secure when locked in your trunk.
- Burglar bars or special locks requiring a tool or key to open from inside the apartment are prohibited.
- No one is authorized to solicit at CASP without written permission from the Office. If someone is soliciting without CASP permission, please call and report it immediately.
- ***YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.***
- Should you experience a crime problem, call the police **first** and the office/Residence Services Staff afterwards.



- Carports may be leased through the office.
- All vehicles are to be parked by pulling straight in, hood first, between the markers or in carports.
- Cars are not to be backed into the curb or carport, nor are they to be parked diagonally.
- CURRENTLY LICENSED, OPERABLE VEHICLES only may be parked in the community.
- Motorcycles are required to park in a carport or designated area. Please contact the office for more information.
- Large vans, commercial trucks, campers, boats and/or trailers and other recreational vehicles may not be parked in front of the apartments.
- Prior written consent by Management must be obtained before any vehicle in these categories can be parked in the assigned parking areas.
- No boats and/or boat trailers are permitted on the premises.
- CASP is not responsible or liable for any damages that may occur while vehicles, motorcycles, boats, trailers or recreational vehicles are parked on the premises.
- Apartments designated as efficiency or studio are allowed one car per unit. Residents of these units must rent a carport if you have more than one car. All other apartments are allowed one vehicle per person/per apartment.

## **21. RENTAL PAYMENTS**

- Rent is due on or before the FIRST of each month. It is considered late on the 2nd. We do not send statements for rent obligations.
- Payments may be made online through our website [carltonarmsofstpetersburg.com](http://carltonarmsofstpetersburg.com) by clicking on the link for Online Payments; or by ACH, personal check, cashier's check or money order for the exact amount due.
- Personal checks must be drawn on an account in the name of the resident.
- Drop boxes/slots are available at the office for payment before or after office hours.
- Late rent payments require payment in guaranteed funds: cashier's check or money order after the 15th of the month.
- CASP prefers not to accept cash payments.
- CASP cannot cash checks or accept checks for more than the amount of the rent to be paid.

## **22. RESIDENT SERVICES STAFF**

- Carlton Arms of St. Petersburg is a single entry apartment community. Located at the entry to the community is an Entrance Pavilion normally

- Never use bleach or products containing bleach to clean your carpet, as these products will cause permanent damage for which you will be held responsible.

## **E. COUNTER TOPS**

- To protect the surface of the counter top, please do not use it as a cutting board.
- Do not place hot pots or containers directly on the counter top, as it will permanently mar the surface.
- Do not use bleach or abrasive cleaners on the counter tops.

## **F. ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS**

- Circuit breakers are safety devices and should not be turned ON and OFF unless there is a problem.
- A circuit breaker controls each electrical circuit in your apartment. Should an appliance or lamp fail, unplug it from the electrical outlet. Check the breaker panel to determine whether a breaker switch has tripped to the OFF position. If so, flip the switch to the ON position. If this procedure does not restore the power or the breaker trips again, please call the office.
- Light fixtures in your apartment have a maximum UL rating of 60 watts. When replacing bulbs, do not use bulbs that exceed the 60-watts.

## **G. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

- Every apartment is supplied with a fire extinguisher.
- Immediately upon move-in, please make yourself familiar with the location, keeping it quickly accessible should it be needed in an emergency.
- Notify the office immediately, if your extinguisher is missing.
- To operate, pull out the locking pin, aim at the base of the flames, squeeze the handle and sweep from side to side until the flames have been extinguished.
- When moving out, leave the fire extinguisher in the apartment. Do not bring it to the office.

## **H. FLOORING: TILE, VINYL & PLANK**

- With normal household use, floors may be washed with a solution of warm water and vinegar or a multi-surface cleaner and a sponge mop.
- Never use highly abrasive scrubbers or steel wool. Scuff marks can be removed using some WD-40 lubricant. Clean thoroughly with the vinegar and water solution to remove any traces of lubrication.
- Do not use detergents, abrasive cleaning or ammonia-based cleaning solutions or any harsh chemicals or waxes containing

these solvents.

- Do not apply varnish, lacquer or shellac to the flooring.

### 3. BALCONIES AND PATIOS

- Balconies and patios are designed for your fun and relaxation. Using them for unsightly storage or workspace is not only annoying to your neighbors, but also detracts from the overall appearance of the community.
- Residents are responsible for maintaining their patio/balcony area in a neat and tidy condition. We encourage the planting of small low growing shrub, plants and flowers in the patio soil. Planting of trees is prohibited as their root systems create problems for patio foundations and sidewalks. CASP residents are responsible for weeding and cleaning their own patios.
- Planting outside the patio fences or around the buildings is prohibited. These areas are maintained by CASP grounds maintenance staff.
- CASP grounds staff will trim and weed your patio for a nominal fee. Please contact the office to make arrangements.
- Clotheslines, dryer racks, or hanging of clothing, (laundry) towels, rugs, on/over balcony railings, or fencing is prohibited. Prior written consent is required if you desire to mount a shade screen or awning on your patio or balcony.
- Due to safety concerns, the use of all outdoor fireplaces/pits is prohibited on all patios and balconies.
- No motorcycles, motor scooters, boat motors, appliances (including hot tubs), indoor furniture, or gas containers of any kind may be stored on the balcony/patio.
- **NO PROPANE OR CHARCOAL BBQ GRILLS ARE ALLOWED ON THE BALCONIES AT ANY TIME.**

### 4. CAR CARE CENTER

- Vehicle repair and maintenance are prohibited on the property.
- Car washing is allowed after 12 noon in the maintenance and trash compactor area only.

### 5. CARPORTS

- Carports are available on a monthly rental basis. Please contact the office for current availability and rates.
- All vehicles or motorcycles parked in a carport must have current registration and tags and must fit within the space and not encroach on the next carport.
- No other items may be stored in the carport area without written permission from CASP Management.

### 18. LOCK OUTS

#### During Office Hours

- Residents on the lease or listed on the rental application may obtain a key. Valid ID will be required.

#### After Office Hours

- Contact the Resident Services Staff at the entrance pavilion. After occupancy records have been verified and valid ID presented, Resident Services Staff will unlock your apartment door.

### 19. MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

- During office hours, contact the office for maintenance work requests.
- You may call the office or submit your request online.
- Do not make requests directly to maintenance personnel.
- Requests are scheduled through the office and performed in the order in which they are received, except emergencies.
- After-hours maintenance on-call staff will be contacted for emergencies *only*.
- If you wish to be present while the repairs are performed, please call in the service request only when you can be home and wait for service.
- There is no charge for routine maintenance, however there may be a charge incurred to repair/replace damage caused by residents or their guests.
- Miscellaneous service requests, such as hanging pictures, ceiling fans, etc. may be available through the maintenance staff at additional charges. Check with the office for more information.

### 20. PARKING

- All CASP residents' vehicles MUST display a CASP parking decal issued by the Office. This decal must be exhibited on the driver's side of the windshield. Anyone entering the community without a CASP parking decal is requested to stop at the Entry Pavilion and provide information as to whom they are visiting.
- Parking space is available for residents within the parking areas on a first come, first serve basis. All guests must park in overflow parking, which is any space not directly in front of a building.
- Disabled parking spaces require specific documentation and permits. Inquire at the office for requirements.
- Vehicles are not permitted on the grass areas, sidewalks, or other common usage areas other than the designated parking areas.
- Any vehicle parked in a prohibited area will be removed from the premises at the vehicle owner's expense.

## 14. GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS

- Carlton Arms has guest accommodations available for visiting family members, friends, or guests of residents.
- Reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- These accommodations are completely furnished including TV, linens, kitchen utensils and all utilities.
- Maid service and telephone are not included.
- These accommodations are smoke-free.
- No pets are permitted in guest units.
- Inquire at the leasing office for rental rates, deposits, availability, and other specific details.

## 15. INSURANCE

- We encourage all residents to obtain a “Renter’s Policy”. There are a variety of these programs available at a nominal cost that provide coverage for liability as well as personal property. Carlton Arms Management’s insurance does not cover loss of or damage to *your* personal property. Please consult your insurance agent.

## 16. KEYS

- Residents may not alter or install a new lock on any door on the premise without prior consent from Management.
- Lock changes must be approved through the office and may incur a nominal charge.
- Additional keys are available, for a small charge, through the office.

## 17. LAUNDRY CENTER

**Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00am-10:30pm**

**Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday/Sunday 6:00am-10:30pm**

- Located at the clubhouse; it is an air-conditioned and smoke-free facility.
- FREE WIFI available; contact the office for more information. • Please remove your laundry promptly after each cycle; allowing machines to be available for other residents’ use.
- No use of dyes is permitted in the machines.
- Management is not responsible for damages or lost or stolen items.
- Please stay with your laundry at all times.
- Change is available during office hours.
- Washers and/or dryers of any type are not permitted in your apartment.

## 6. CLUBHOUSE

- The Clubhouse is available for socializing, cards, TV viewing, etc. for residents and their guests. All guests must be accompanied by residents at all times.
- Proper attire is required at all times.
- The Clubhouse may be reserved by a resident for a private party upon receipt and approval of a Clubhouse reservation agreement. There is no charge for the use of the Clubhouse. However, a deposit of \$100 (check preferred) is required with the reservation agreement.
- NO weddings or wedding reception are allowed.
- Private use of the Clubhouse is subject to certain terms as specified in the Clubhouse reservation agreement.
- Residents must be in attendance at all times. Functions will be monitored by CASP Staff.
- CASP reserves the right to close any function that is determined to be disruptive or in violation of the reservation agreement.
- NO POOL PARTIES ARE PERMITTED.
- No BBQ grills are allowed in the pool area.
- Anyone under the age of 16 years must be under adult supervision to utilize the Clubhouse facilities, including the fitness room. Persons aged 16 years and younger are not allowed to use the fitness equipment at any time and may not be present in the fitness center unless accompanied by an adult.

## 7. COMMON USAGE AREAS

- Lawns, sidewalks, entrances, hallways and stairways must not be obstructed or used for any purpose other than entry and exit.
- These areas must be kept clear of lawn furniture, bicycles, strollers, etc. These items must be kept inside the apartment or patio/balcony.
- Common entryway closets are not to be used for any type of personal storage.
- Common hallways are smoke-free.
- Please help keep our community clean. Do not discard beverage cans, bottles, or refuse on the lawns, streets or other common areas.

## 8. CONSIDERATION OF NEIGHBORS

- Sound carries easily in an apartment setting, especially in common areas, such as hallways.
- Please conduct your activities in and around the buildings in a manner so as not to interfere with the rights, comforts, or



convenience of other residents.

- Musical instruments, televisions, stereos, power tools, etc. should not be operated in a manner that is disturbing or annoying to other residents.

## 9. DECORATING

### A. Window Treatments

- In order to maintain a uniform appearance of our community, standard blinds and verticals are provided in all apartments.
- Standard window treatments are required on all windows and sliding glass doors.
- The use of sheets, towels, blankets, flags, aluminum foil, etc. is not acceptable.
- If a resident would like window tint installed on the sliding glass door, it is at their own expense. Smoky gray is the only tint allowed. There may be a charge incurred upon vacating the apartment for the removal of damaged film.

### B. Screen Doors

- Screen doors of any kind on any front doors are prohibited.

### C. Paint/Wallpaper

- Painting or hanging wallpaper or borders must be pre-approved by Management.

## 10. DOCK FACILITIES

- Carlton Arms of St. Petersburg offers limited dock facilities to our residents for an additional monthly rental fee. Please contact the office for current rates and availability.
- All boats must be operational, well maintained and display the current FL ID registration number.
- The dock areas must be kept clean and uncluttered. No storage of dinghies or rowboats allowed. All lines & hoses are to be kept coiled or onboard.
- Only plastic or fiberglass dock boxes are allowed.
- All boat owners are liable for any damages incurred to the docks or other boats as a result of negligence by the boat owner.

## 11. EXTERMINATING

- All apartments are treated monthly on a scheduled basis.
- Please check with the office for any problems requiring additional treatment.
- Good housekeeping practices are the best defense against bugs.

- Florida is home for many species of termites. All buildings are treated to control these inhabitants. Please contact the office if you encounter any evidence of their activity.

## 12. FITNESS CENTER

**Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00am-10:30pm**

**Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday/Sunday 6:00am-10:30pm**

- Attendants are not provided.
- Persons aged 16 years and younger are not allowed to use the fitness equipment at any time and may not be present in the fitness center unless accompanied by an adult.
- No pets allowed.
- No wet clothing in the fitness center.
- Keep body clear of weights and other moving parts when using fitness equipment.
- Do not make repairs on fitness equipment. Report needed repairs immediately to management.
- Do not use, adjust or operate fitness equipment beyond your physical limitations.
- Please report vandalism and unauthorized users.
- Do not remove equipment from the Fitness Center.
- Do not leave personal items in the Fitness Center.
- Respect others by keeping noise to a minimum and by disposing of trash properly.
- We recommend exercising with a partner.
- Please wipe down the fitness equipment with a clean towel once you are done.
- No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Fitness Center.
- **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK – CARLTON ARMS IS NOT LIABLE FOR INJURY.**
- Please consult your physician prior to using this Fitness Center.

## 13. GRILLS

- State Fire Codes strictly prohibit all charcoal and propane gas grills on balconies at any time.
- No gas or gas tanks, of any kind, may be stored on balconies or inside apartments.
- Grilling on downstairs patios should be done in the open area of the patio at least 10 ft. from the building structure, fencing, and windows.



# REQUIRED NOTICE OF RIGHTS IN HOUSING

Landlords in the City of St. Petersburg are required to distribute this notice, and it is not intended to provide legal advice by either the City or the Landlord.

## RENTERS HAVE RIGHTS

**Per City of St. Petersburg Ordinance 422-H, at the time a rental agreement is formalized, all landlords in the city are required to notify tenants as follows:**

Though tenants have responsibilities under Florida law and through lease agreements – including paying rent, keeping the unit clean and in working order under relevant codes and not disturbing the peace - landlords have certain requirements and restrictions as well. This document is meant to educate tenants about their rights and tenants should review their lease regarding their responsibilities and discuss questions with their landlord.

## ALL RESIDENTIAL RENTALS MUST BE FIT FOR HABITATION

A unit must generally include working plumbing and heating, be free from pests and have locking doors and windows, among other requirements<sup>1</sup>. Structures in the City must also meet all applicable building, housing and health codes. If there is an issue with your unit for which you have not assumed responsibility under your lease, contact your landlord as set forth in your lease. If your landlord does not address the needed issue within a reasonable timeframe, certain issues can be reported to the City Codes Department at 727-893-7373. A landlord cannot deny access to a code inspector if access is granted by a tenant.

## RETALIATION AND DISCRIMINATION ARE ILLEGAL

A landlord may not raise your rent or threaten to evict you because you reported a health or safety violation or filed a fair housing complaint<sup>2</sup>. A landlord cannot treat you differently because of your race, nationality, disability or sexual orientation, among other criteria<sup>3</sup>. If you feel you have been discriminated against or retaliated against, contact the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights at 727-464-4880.

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE AN EVICTION AND OTHER UNLAWFUL ACTION

A lease cannot prevent you from challenging an eviction or limit the liability of a landlord<sup>4</sup>. If a landlord is violating the lease agreement or otherwise damaging your interest (such as utilizing utilities you pay for without your permission) you can always seek relief through the courts. If you challenge an eviction and win, your landlord must generally pay for your attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal assistance from many local and statewide groups. Contact the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights at 727-464-4880 or visit the Florida Bar website at [floridabar.org/public/probono/](http://floridabar.org/public/probono/) for more information.

## HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you face eviction and/or homelessness, financial assistance may be available. There are many local organizations that can help. Contact 211 for a full directory of local services or visit [211tampabay.org](http://211tampabay.org) for more information.

<sup>1</sup> Fla. Stat. § 83.51

<sup>2</sup> Fla. Stat. § 83.64

<sup>3</sup> Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, and Pinellas County Code Chapter 70

<sup>4</sup> Fla. Stat. § 83.47