



### **We Are Our Brother's Keeper**

We are our "brothers keepers" If we don't look out for others, who will look out for us? That can be a tough concept at times — especially when living in an apartment complex with their mix of tenant personalities and the comings and goings of so many people. But it's important to know who your neighbors are and they should know you. Even if you just casually wave hello, make a point to learn the names and faces of everyone in your building. Plus knowing your

neighbors has some perks like making a good friend or two and it makes for a better community. It also creates an atmosphere of better security when you know who should (or should not) be in the building or hanging around the premises. So do your part. Smile. Say good morning (or afternoon) and make it a point to know your neighbor so that they can get to know you.

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### **Golden rule of apartment security...don't let strangers into your building**

Everyone can do their part to keep personally safe and prevent crime before it happens within your community or neighborhood by being alert, aware of your surroundings and using common sense. This is especially true when it comes to your safety and crime prevention within your apartment building. The most important step — the first step — the Golden Rule of Apartment Safety...

**DO NOT let strangers into your building!** It may be difficult and socially awkward at times, but it's better to play it safe by not letting someone you don't know into your building. Here are some pointers to help you remain safe in your building. Learn these tips, make them part of your everyday habits and teach them to your children.

Suspicious or unknown people trying to get into the building should be directed to your property manager. If you do not want to talk to the person at the door, notify management or maintenance about them immediately so that they can determine why they are there or who it is they came to visit.

Never allow strangers to enter the building as you are leaving or entering the building. Be aware of anybody hanging around the door that looks disinterested but makes a dash to hold open the door after it has been unlocked.

Do Not buzz anyone you don't know into the building. Criminals have been known to randomly buzz people's apartments saying it is a pizza delivery and the other tenant is not answering so can you please let them in. If they tell you its an emergency, offer to call 911 for them. If they say that's not necessary, tell them you can't help them.

Do Not let solicitors into your building. They have no right to be in the building — its "secure" for a reason.

Security Locked Entrances are only secure if the common doors remain closed and locked when not in use. Do not prop them open — even for a moment — you could compromise the safety of the whole building.

Always look to see who is in the elevator before entering. **DO NOT ENTER** if you do not feel comfortable — wait for the next one. When in the elevator stand beside the control panel and know where the emergency alarm button is. If a suspicious person enters the elevator, exit before the door closes.

Always be aware of your surroundings. If there are suspicious characters in the parking lot that arouse your concern, go back inside. When going to your car, have your keys ready in your hand with the correct key next to your index finger. This will enable you to enter your vehicle quickly, plus keys can be used as a weapon to poke an attacker in the face to defend yourself if necessary. When leaving your car, do the same.

Always check the inside of your vehicle through the car window before entering.

Always leave your automobile locked, and remove any valuables.

Always lock and deadbolt your apartment door when you leave and while you're home.

Never prop the door to your apartment open.

Never let strangers into your apartment.

Personal safety is first and foremost a personal responsibility. Always be aware of your surroundings and always ask yourself if your behavior is increasing your chances of becoming a victim. If it is, it may be time to rethink what you are doing.

If you have a personal safety concern or question, contact your property manager or call Officer Wood at 309-732-2738. They are there to help in any way possible. For non-police related emergencies, call 309-732-COPS (2677). If it IS an emergency — never hesitate — call 911!

# Don't be afraid to CALL THE POLICE!

Personal Safety refers to the freedom from physical harm and threat of physical harm, and freedom from hostility, aggression, and harassment. Safety includes worry about being victimized as well as actual incidents.

If you see a crime or think you see a crime being committed in your building, at the bus stop, in the park or down the street; **CALL 911.**

If you believe a crime may have occurred in your home, do not enter! The criminal(s) may still be in there. Use a neighbor's telephone and call the police. If a crime has occurred, **DO NOT** touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected the apartment, home or vehicle for evidence.

Write down the descriptions of any suspicious people and the license number of any suspicious vehicles.

When it comes to personal safety, it's best to follow your mother's advice and, "be careful — think before you act." Thanks mom!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### RIHA Properties

Lincoln Homes: 309.788-0539

Maintenance: 309.788-3800

Sunset Heights: 309.788-3800

Maintenance: 309.788.3800

Spencer Towers: 309.788.1809

Maintenance: 309.788.1809

3rd & 11th Townhomes: 309.788.1809

Maintenance: 309.788.1809

Leasing Office:

227 - 21st Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 309.788.0828 • Email: [Housing@RIHA4rent](mailto:Housing@RIHA4rent)

[www.RIHA4Rent.org](http://www.RIHA4Rent.org)

### CHS Properties

Cascade Garden: 309.283.2299

Maintenance: 309.283.2299

Douglas Park Place Maintenance: 309.283.2299

Lynden Lane: 309.283.2299

Maintenance: 309.283.2299

Leasing Office:

655 Cascade Garden Drive, Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 309.283.2299 • Email: [Housing@RIHA4rent](mailto:Housing@RIHA4rent)

[www.CHS4You.org](http://www.CHS4You.org)

TDD/TTY Use Only: 1.800.1833 ext 355

### For More Information Contact:

Newsletter Editor Gail A. Riggins

P: 309.269.1120 E: [GailARiggins@gmail.com](mailto:GailARiggins@gmail.com)

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