The Art of Good Neighboring

Columbia is a great city that offers a wonderful quality of life for residents. As a member of the USC and Columbia communities, it is your responsibility to practice civility and be a good neighbor. Here's how:

Be a Good Neighbor:
- Introduce yourself. Put a face to a name and share contact information.
- Don’t ignore your neighbor. A hello and a smile can go a long way. Don’t play loud music that can be heard outside. Don’t park on the lawn, block driveways or block sidewalks.

Live Green:
- Know when trash and recycling are picked up. Pick up trash on your property daily. Pick up after your pets. Mow your lawn.
- Don’t leave trash and recycling bins out for more than 24 hours - that includes furniture.

Party Smart:
- Keep the noise down. It’s the #1 reason the police are called. Notify your neighbors in advance and ask them to call you before calling the police. Provide non-alcoholic beverages and food for guests.
- Don’t drink if you are under 21 or serve alcohol to minors. Don’t let guests drive after drinking or let your party get out of your control. You are liable for the actions of your guests and this type of behavior could result in sanctions from the Office of Student Conduct.
Be Respectful:

- Cooperate and show respect to police and your neighbors.
- Don’t be rude, belligerent or foul-mouthed.

Live Safe:

- Know your fire escapes. Keep a fire extinguisher handy. Test smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries. Lock the doors and windows of your house and car.
- Don’t overload electrical outlets. Never leave outdoor fires or grills unattended - this includes leaving cooking or candles unattended.

Know the Code
Review the University of South Carolina Code of Conduct (sc.edu/policies/ppm/staf626.pdf). This code applies to all students, on- or off-campus. Violating the law off-campus can be a violation of this code. Students can receive consequences from both criminal court and USC for the same incident.

Ask for Legal Help
If you have questions, concerns or would like your rental agreement or contract to be reviewed by a lawyer, contact Student Legal Services at 803-777-6611.

Know Your Rights
Check out sa.sc.edu/ocss/resources/legal-rights-and-responsibilities to learn about South Carolina landlord laws and your rights as a tenant.

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