

Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College  
and Graduate School of Medical Sciences

420 East 70th Street (Suite 2S)  
New York, NY 10021  
PHONE (212) 746-1001  
FAX (212) 746-8876

## Policy on Family Housing

Approved 3/6/01 updated 3/06

### POLICY STATEMENT

Family housing is available to Cornell students, postdoctoral trainees (postdoc), visiting fellows, and their spouses, domestic partners, minor dependents, or IRS qualifying dependents. All decisions concerning family housing and family status are solely at the discretion of the WMC Housing Office.

### WHO SHOULD READ THIS POLICY

- All current and prospective WMC housing occupants who wish to apply for family housing.
- WMC faculty, staff, administrators or any other individuals who may sponsor or in any way assist a current or prospective WMC family housing occupant.

### DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to terms as they are used in this policy:

**WMC Dormitory Agreement** The Terms & Conditions which all WMC Housing occupants must follow.

**Primary Occupant** Housed individual whose affiliation/relationship with the Medical College provides a housing eligibility status for self (& family).

**Domestic Partner** Domestic partners are defined as two individuals who live together in a long-term relationship of indefinite duration, with an exclusive, mutual commitment similar to that of marriage in which the partners agree to be responsible for each other's welfare and share financial obligations.

**IRS Eligible Dependent** A person or persons who has been declared as a dependent under the primary occupant's US tax return for the tax year prior to the application for housing. The dependent must qualify as a dependent under the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service of the United States regardless of the fact that the dependent may be considered as a dependent under the law of another nation.

**WMC Housing Buildings** All on-campus housing buildings operated by WMC Housing Office: Lasdon House, Livingston-Farrand, 442 & 444 East 77<sup>th</sup> Street, Southtown, and Olin Hall. Only Lasdon House, Livingston-Farrand & 442 & 444 East 77<sup>th</sup> Street and Southtown may be available for family housing.

## **MEETING FAMILY HOUSING CRITERIA THROUGH MARRIAGE**

- A. Any couple who presents a valid marriage certificate is eligible to reside in family housing.
- B. Engagement to be married does not qualify applicants for family housing, unless the applicant is otherwise approved as meeting family housing criteria through domestic partnership.

## **MEETING FAMILY HOUSING CRITERIA THROUGH DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP**

- A. To be considered for family housing as domestic partners at WMC, two individuals must fulfill all of the following requirements.
  - 1. Current New York residents must have filed a *New York City Domestic Partnership Agreement* at the time of application. Those from outside New York City must present to the Housing Office a valid New York City Domestic Partnership Agreement within 60 days after arriving in New York City.
  - 2. Meet all of the following criteria:
    - a. Meet the legal age requirement for marriage in their state or country of residence and be mutually competent to consent to a contract.
    - b. Meet all legal age requirements concerning cohabitation with minors as required by New York State law.
    - c. Not be related by blood in a manner that would bar marriage under the laws of their state of residence.
    - d. Must demonstrate that they have been sharing a household on a continuous basis for a minimum of one year prior to the date of request for domestic partner status.
    - e. Be jointly responsible for each other's common welfare and share financial obligations, as demonstrated by two (2) of the following which must have pre-existed for a minimum of one year prior to occupancy (at least one of these must be either items "1" or "2" in the following list):
      - 1. A joint mortgage or lease.
      - 2. Ownership of an actively used joint bank account, joint credit account, or joint ownership of a motor vehicle.
      - 3. Designation of domestic partner as primary beneficiary in a will or trust document.
      - 4. Assignment of durable property or health care power of attorney to domestic partner.
      - 5. Designation of domestic partner as beneficiary for life insurance or retirement benefits.
      - 6. Registered as domestic partners in some other state or foreign county, other than New York.
- B. Student applicants for domestic partnership:
  - 1. When applying for financial aid, you must provide the required financial information and documentation for both individuals of the domestic partnership. Financial aid decisions and awards will be based on the combined assets of the domestic partners.

2. The WMC Housing Office will send a letter to the Office of Financial Aid advising that office of all approved applications for domestic partnership.

C. Submission of domestic partnership documentation

1. All documents for domestic partnership must be submitted to the WMC Housing Office located at Lasdon House, 420 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2S, New York, NY 10021, (212) 746-1001.
2. Please submit all materials to the attention of: Director, WMC Housing Office.

**CHANGING FAMILY HOUSING CRITERIA THROUGH DEPENDENT MINOR DESIGNATION**

Children of a WMC student or qualifying family member, must provide valid birth certificate, adoption papers (an application for adoption is NOT sufficient), or passport indicating the parentage of the child to the Housing Office.

**CHANGING FAMILY HOUSING CRITERIA THROUGH IRS QUALIFYING DEPENDENTS**

A qualifying dependent is a person who has been declared as a dependent under the primary occupant's US tax return for tax year before the application for housing. The person must qualify as a dependent under the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service of the United States regardless of the fact that the person may be considered as a dependent under the law of another nation.

Documentation concerning IRS Qualifying Dependents should be presented to the WMC Housing Office.

**TERMINATION AGREEMENT**

All individuals who obtain family housing must sign a termination agreement, which states that they will inform the Housing Office of the termination of their marriage, domestic partnership, or change in IRS dependent status within two weeks of such an occurrence. All family housing occupants will be required to vacate the family housing unit to which they have been assigned if they no longer meet the minimum occupancy requirement for that particular unit. If requested, the WMC student/employee will be reassigned to appropriate other housing. Failure to provide such information in a timely fashion will lead to loss of housing privileges.

**FALSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTATION**

Falsification of documents and records to certify eligibility for family housing will result in a loss of housing for the student or employee. Furthermore, any student or employee falsifying records will be sent for review under the provision of *the Code of Professional Conduct* for medical students and the *Code of Legislation of the Faculty and the Graduate School of Medical Sciences* for graduate students and employees.

**NYC DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION**

To obtain a Domestic Partnership Affidavit and information on registering as a domestic partner, please contact one of the following City Agencies:

NYC Commission on Human Rights	(212) 306-7500
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities	(212) 788-2830
NYC Department for the Aging	(212) 442-1000
Mayor's Action Center	(212) 788-9600
Office of the City Clerk	(212) 669-8190