

**Subject:** RHIIP Listserv #125 - Resident Disclosure of Social Security Numbers, Revision to Pet Rules for Elderly & Disabled and RHIIP TIP  
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**RHIIP Listserv Posting #125**

**Thursday, October 30, 2008**

Welcome to the MULTIFAMILY HOUSING RENTAL HOUSING INTEGRITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (RHIIP) LISTSERV that brings you up-to-date RHIIP related publications, news, information and occupancy tips in an effort to help reduce errors in rent determinations and subsidy calculations.

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**UPCOMING CHANGE TO REQUIREMENT FOR  
RESIDENT DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS**

On June 29, 2007, a Proposed Rule was published in the Federal Register proposing a revision to HUD's regulations at 24 C.F.R. 5.216 covering the requirements for disclosure of social security numbers. The proposed revision to the regulations requires disclosure of social security numbers by **all** individuals applying for or participating in HUD's rental assistance programs. The Final Rule implementing the revisions to the requirement for disclosure of social security numbers will be published in the Federal Register in the near future. Once the Final Rule is in effect, applicants will be required to disclose and provide verification of the social security number for all members of their household before they can be admitted. Current residents will be required to disclose and provide verification of social security numbers for all members of their household, where disclosure and verification has not occurred, at the time of their next interim or annual recertification.

Owners and management agents are encouraged to begin informing applicants and residents who have not disclosed their social security number, or the social security number of a child under the age of 6, or who have certified they do not have a social security number, of this upcoming revision to the regulations and their need to begin the process of obtaining a social security number.

**REVISION TO PET RULES RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Final Rule revising the regulations on Pet Ownership for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities was published in the Federal Register on October 27, 2008. The Final Rule is effective on November 26, 2008.

The Final Rule revises 24 C.F.R. 5.303 covering the exclusion of animals that assist, support or provide services to persons with disabilities from the pet ownership rules. The revision to the regulations:

- o Expands the definition of animals covered by the exclusion to "animals used to assist, support, or provide services to persons with disabilities."
- o Clarifies that owners and management agents may not enforce any policies established for pets against animals that are necessary as a reasonable accommodation to assist, support or provide services to persons with disabilities.
- o Removes the training and tenant certification requirements in order for an animal to qualify for the exclusion.

The Final Rule is posted on HUDCLIPS at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-25474.pdf>

For more information on assistance animals as a reasonable accommodation, see HUD Handbook 4350.3 REV-1, *Occupancy Requirements of Subsidized Multifamily Housing Programs*, Chapter 2, paragraph 2-44.

**RHIIP TIP: Dependent Deduction**

When more than one family shares custody of a child and both live in assisted housing, only one family at a time can claim the dependent deduction for that child. The family with primary custody or with custody at the time of the initial certification or annual recertification receives the deduction. If there is a dispute about which family should claim the dependent deduction, the owner should refer to available documents such as copies of court orders or an IRS return showing which family has claimed the child for income tax purposes.

For more information on dependent deductions, please refer to Chapter 5, Paragraph 5-10 of HUD Handbook 4350.3 REV-1 *Occupancy Requirements of Subsidized Multifamily Housing Programs*.

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Please encourage others to sign-up for the Listserv, so they too can receive current RHIIP related information from HUD  
<http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/maillinglist.cfm>.

You can view the RHIIP Tips Archives, under "Listserv-Multifamily RHIIP Tips" at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/rhiip/mfhrhiip.cfm>