

## Residence

## Policy No. 418

- Policy Statement:** Priests in active ministry are required to live in the rectory or residence provided by the parish or the Archdiocese (cc. 283, §1; 533, §1; 550, §1).
- Only clergy are allowed to live in a rectory or residence provided by the parish or the Archdiocese.
- Intent of Policy:** To ensure that priests are living within their parish boundaries and are available to meet the needs of their parishioners.
- To ensure good stewardship of parish and archdiocesan resources, and to prevent any risk of scandal.
- Definition:** A rectory or residence can be a house, condominium or an apartment supplied by the parish or the Archdiocese as accommodation for the priest.
- Procedure:**
- a) Smoking is not permitted in rectories. Adequate provision may be made for those who wish to smoke outdoors. (Policy No. 304)
  - b) Pets can be a source of companionship for a priest.
    - i. However, no pet is to be introduced to the rectory, except by mutual agreement among all the priests residing in the rectory.
    - ii. In the event of a change of priest residing in the rectory or residence, the existence of a pet must be disclosed and discussed prior to finalizing the assignment, keeping in mind that the pastoral needs of the parish will always take precedence over the presence of the pet.
    - iii. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to provide for all the physical needs of the pet.
      - Parish funds are not to be used for the upkeep of the pet.
      - Parish staff will not be expected to provide care for the pet.
      - The pet owner will make restitution to the parish for damage incurred in a rectory due to a pet.
  - c) At the time of a new pastor appointment, an inspection will be made to assess whether upgrades to the rectory are necessary (e.g. painting, washing walls, and carpets).
  - d) The resident priest(s) deemed to have caused damage to the rectory while residing there will make restitution to the parish for the damage.

*Clergy - Priests*

***Exceptions:***

- a) The Archbishop may permit a priest to reside elsewhere provided that his priestly duties are properly and suitably met (c. 533, §1).
- b) Relatives or friends of a priest visiting on vacation may stay at the rectory or residence.
- c) Immediate family members of a priest may reside at the rectory for extended periods of time other than vacation, if permission of the Archbishop is granted.

***Refer to Policy:***

No. 304 Smoke Free Workplace & Environment