

## APARTMENT HUNTING DO'S AND DON'T'S

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Looking for a new apartment can be hard work. Sometimes your new home may be as close as a phone call and an appointment away. Sometimes it takes many phone calls and walks through many grim and dingy apartments before you find a new place to rest your head. The following suggestions may make your search both shorter and easier.

### **Read all “Apartment Available” ads carefully. Make sure the apartment listed is one you might want.**

- Do you have a dog? Does the ad say no pets? It's not the apartment for you.
- Does the landlord want first month's rent, last month's rent and security? If you don't have it, look elsewhere first.
- Do you need a lower or upper level apartment?
- Do you need a stove and a refrigerator? Does the apartment come with one?
- Do you smoke? Does the ad refer to smoking/non-smoking?

### **Remember: Your landlord's first impression of you will come from your first phone call.**

- Be friendly and polite when you call about an apartment.
- Speak clearly.
- Call at a time when there is not a lot of background noise (loud music, crying or fighting children) in your home.
- If you have to leave a message, give your name, phone number and why you are calling. Tell the landlord a good time to call back.

### **Ask the landlord questions when you make the first phone call:**

- Find out when the apartment is available.
- Ask how utilities are paid. (Ask for estimate of monthly costs.)
- Confirm the amount of the monthly rent.
- Ask what the rent includes.
- Ask exactly where the apartment is.
- Ask if the landlord has a written lease. If so, how long is the lease term?
- If needed, ask whether there are laundry hook-ups available.
- If needed, ask if there is parking available.