**Co-Housing & Communal Living Agreement**

**Introduction**

This Co-Housing and Communal Living Agreement sets the foundation for a respectful, cooperative, and harmonious living environment within [Community or House Name]. This agreement outlines the expectations, responsibilities, and guidelines that all residents agree to uphold. By signing this document, each resident commits to fostering a shared living space that promotes open communication, fairness, and mutual respect.

### **1. Living Arrangements**

Each resident will have a designated personal living area, with shared access to common spaces such as the kitchen, bathrooms, living room, and outdoor areas.

* **Personal Space**: Each resident is responsible for maintaining their own personal space. Privacy and personal boundaries must be respected by all residents.
* **Shared Spaces**: Common areas are for the enjoyment of all residents. It is expected that each person uses these spaces responsibly and with consideration for others.

### **2. Cost-Sharing and Financial Contributions**

To maintain the household, each resident agrees to contribute fairly to communal expenses, including rent, utilities, and shared household items.

* **Rent**: Monthly rent will be divided equally among all residents, unless otherwise agreed upon, and is due by [specific date] each month.
* **Utilities**: Utility bills, including electricity, water, internet, and other services, will be split equally among residents and are due as per the payment schedule.
* **Shared Supplies**: Common household items such as cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and other shared goods will be purchased collectively, with costs split evenly or contributed to a monthly household fund.
* **Financial Hardships**: Residents experiencing financial difficulties should notify the group as soon as possible to discuss possible solutions.

### **3. Household Chores and Maintenance**

All residents are expected to participate in the upkeep of shared spaces through a fair and organized system of chores.

* **Chore Rotation**: A rotating schedule for weekly chores (such as cleaning, trash removal, and dishwashing) will be established to ensure equal participation.
* **Cleaning Standards**: Residents agree to maintain a basic standard of cleanliness in all shared spaces. Personal items should not be left in common areas.
* **Repairs and Maintenance**: All household repairs or maintenance issues should be reported to the group. Small repairs may be handled independently, while larger repairs will be addressed collectively, including any necessary cost-sharing.

### **4. Noise, Guests, and Shared Space Etiquette**

To promote a respectful environment, all residents agree to the following guidelines regarding noise, guest policies, and shared space etiquette.

* **Noise Levels**: Residents will keep noise at a reasonable level, especially during quiet hours from [start time] to [end time]. This includes music, TV, and other activities that could disturb others.
* **Guest Policy**: Residents may have occasional guests with prior notice to other residents. Overnight guests should be limited, and extended visits (over [X days]) require approval from all housemates.
* **Personal Belongings**: Common areas should be free of personal belongings unless otherwise agreed. Shared items should be returned to their designated places after use.

### **5. Food and Kitchen Use**

Each resident agrees to uphold fair and respectful practices in shared kitchen use and food storage.

* **Personal and Shared Food**: Food items should be clearly labeled as either personal or shared. Unless items are labeled as shared, they are considered private property.
* **Cooking and Cleanup**: Each resident is responsible for cleaning up after themselves promptly. This includes wiping down surfaces, washing dishes, and storing leftovers.
* **Shared Pantry Supplies**: Items such as spices, cooking oil, and condiments may be designated as communal with mutual consent and a plan for regular contributions.

### **6. Conflict Resolution**

To address disagreements constructively, residents agree to follow a clear and respectful process for resolving conflicts.

* **Direct Communication**: Residents are encouraged to address issues directly with each other before seeking group mediation.
* **Group Discussions**: For issues that affect the household, residents may request a group meeting to discuss and resolve the matter collectively.
* **Mediation**: In unresolved conflicts, a neutral third-party mediator (a community member or designated representative) may be involved to help facilitate a fair resolution.

### **7. Respect, Privacy, and Mutual Support**

All residents agree to treat each other with respect, uphold personal boundaries, and support a culture of inclusivity and consideration.

* **Respectful Behavior**: Harassment, discrimination, and any form of abusive behavior will not be tolerated.
* **Privacy**: Each resident’s personal space and belongings must be respected at all times. Entering a resident’s room without permission is strictly prohibited.
* **Community Support**: Each resident agrees to support one another by fostering a spirit of mutual cooperation, helping with communal tasks, and offering assistance when possible.

### **8. House Rules Modifications**

This agreement may be updated as needed, with changes requiring approval from all residents to ensure the guidelines remain fair and relevant.

* **Review Process**: Residents may suggest changes to house rules during regular meetings or group discussions.
* **Consensus-Based Decisions**: Any updates to the agreement must have unanimous approval from all residents to be implemented.

**Resident Acknowledgment**

By signing below, I, [Resident Name], agree to the terms outlined in this Co-Housing and Communal Living Agreement and commit to contributing to a positive, respectful shared living environment.

**Resident Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_