Common Situations and Reasons for which Exemption Requests or Contract Termination Requests are Denied

Residence Life is obligated to enforce the Board of Regents Policy 24-2 and University Policy (AP-02-117) requiring first and second year students to live in university operated residence halls. Additionally, the residence hall contract is fully activated once the semester begins and residents are required to fulfill the contractual obligations.

Exemption requests and contract termination requests by the resident are reviewed on an individual basis. However, we strive to make decisions that are based on consistent criteria and in fairness to all students. The following is a list of situations where requests may be denied, but other solutions may be available.

**Unhappiness with residence hall life:** Residence hall living is a new experience for most students and requires a certain amount of adjustment. If a student has made a fair adjustment to the hall environment but is still unhappy; a change of hall, room, floor, or roommate may be an effective remedy. Residence hall staff are available to work with residents individually to find a solution if a specific issue continues to be a problem or concern.

**Physical or mental health conditions where on-campus housing can provide a reasonable accommodation:** Even with documentation from a doctor or therapist, most conditions do not automatically exempt students from policy and contract obligations. Specific health-related conditions and needs must be outlined by a medical or mental health professional. We will work with students individually to make residence hall rooms environmentally and health friendly.

**Disability where on-campus housing can provide an accessible living environment:** Requests based on disability require students to identify and discuss with Residence Life staff the specific areas of concern and issues they are experiencing in the living environment. Through this process, the student and staff member will explore access solutions. Residence Life works collaboratively with the Ability Services office to meet students’ disability-related needs.

**Financial difficulty:** Lack of funds alone is not a basis for exemption or contract termination. Finances for the academic year should be considered before choosing to enroll at the University or activating the residence hall contract. Financial aid is available to those who qualify based on need, and Residence Life relies on the expertise of the Financial Aid Office to determine if a student has a sufficient financial aid and other funding options to attend UWRF. Financial hardship means there has been a significant change in your financial situation that cannot be rectified.
Helping at home: Needing to be at home to help with a family business, take care of siblings or other family members, or take care of pets or other animals is not a reason for an exemption or contract termination. The student, along with their family, must explore alternative solutions to accommodate these needs.

Commuting / living with a relative: The choice to commute from the home of a parent or legal guardian must be made before activation of the residence hall contract. Students who are eligible to commute from the home of their parent or guardian must submit their request and be approved before the start of the academic year. The commuter exemption does not allow for living with siblings, grandparents, other relatives, or a fiancée/significant other. A contract termination will not be granted for a student who wants to become a commuter after the start of the academic year.

Emotional support animal: Pets are not allowed in the residence halls, but if a student has a documented need for an emotional support animal, they will need to go through the housing accommodation process. Students are encouraged to read materials available on the Ability Services website before starting the request process to ensure they qualify for an emotional support animal accommodation.