

<https://www.caionline.org/Advocacy/PublicPolicies/Pages/default.asp>



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Rights and Responsibilities for Better Communities

CAI Public Policy Helps to Balance Expectations in Community Living

This is the second in a series of articles about public policies developed by the Government and Public Affairs Committee of Community Associations Institute (CAI). These public policies are designed to provide guidance to associations and set standards to which common interest associations and those who support the work of community associations may aspire.

What should community members expect from leadership?

What should community leaders expect from the members?

CAI volunteers spent countless hours considering these questions. One conclusion – in order to create community, we need to foster community – a sense of belonging – like neighborhoods of the past seemed to do naturally.

Great effort and attention has been given constructing neighborhoods. We need to focus the same effort and attention on the psyche of community living. We do this by recognizing, building, and maintaining strong relationships among community members, between community members and their volunteer leaders and even among those volunteer leaders, and understanding what is expected.

These important and essential goals are the impetus for CAI's public policy –

Rights and Responsibilities for Better Communities. This policy is about relationships; primarily the relationship between community members and community leaders. The strategy is to encourage community members and leaders to adopt a new perspective on community living.

Rights and Responsibilities for Better Communities promotes balance. The policy is a collection of 42 principles for community members and community leaders, reflecting the delicate balance between the rights that community members and leaders expect and the responsibilities that are the foundation of those rights. For example:

- Homeowners have the **right** to live in a community where the property is maintained according to established standards and
- Homeowners have the **responsibility** to maintain their property according to established standards.


Perhaps this example restates the obvious, but often we need to be reminded of the fundamental expectations of being part of a community. In the same way, community leaders have rights and responsibilities.



For example:

- Community leaders have the **right** to expect residents to know and comply with the rules and regulations of the community.
- and
- Community leaders have the **responsibility** to understand the association's governing documents and become educated with respect to applicable state and local laws and to manage the community association accordingly.

These examples offer helpful illustrations of what the guidelines are all about. Community members and leaders are entitled to enjoy the benefits of community association living. Understanding the expectations helps promote and sustain a positive and effective community.

As a community leader, consider adopting *Rights and Responsibilities for Better Communities* in your community. CAI offers a resolution – ready for adoption. If your community adopts the policy, CAI will make available a certificate that can be proudly displayed in your community – as a present and evident reminder of your support for balanced government. 

A list of CAI's Public Policies is available online at:
<https://www.caionline.org/Advocacy/PublicPolicies/Pages/default.aspx>

Rights and Responsibilities for Better Communities can be found at:
<https://www.caionline.org/Advocacy/PublicPolicies/Pages/Rights-and-Responsibilities-for-Better-Communities.aspx>

A sample resolution to adopt Rights and Responsibilities for Better Communities can be found at:

https://www.caionline.org/HomeownerLeaders/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?source-doc=/HomeownerLeaders/Rights%20and%20Responsibilities/sample_resolution.doc&action=default

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