



# Weill Cornell Medicine

## Housing

### Weill Cornell Medicine Policy on Family Housing

#### POLICY STATEMENT

Family housing is available to Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) faculty, students, and postdoctoral assistants, and their spouses, domestic partners, minor dependents, or IRS qualifying dependents, each of whom must be domiciled in the assigned unit. All decisions concerning family housing and family status are solely at the discretion of the WCM Housing Office.

#### DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to terms as they are used in this policy:

<b>WCM Housing License Agreement</b>	The Terms and Conditions under which all WCM Housing Residents and their guests must follow.
<b>Primary Resident</b>	Housed individual whose affiliation or relationship with WCM provides a housing eligibility status for him/herself and family.
<b>Domestic Partners</b>	Two individuals who live together in a long-term relationship of indefinite duration, with an exclusive, mutual commitment similar to that of marriage to which the partners agree to be responsible for each other's welfare and share financial obligations.
<b>IRS Eligible Dependent(s)</b>	A person or persons who has/have been declared as dependent under the primary resident's US tax return for the tax year prior to the application for housing. The dependent must qualify as a dependent under the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service of the United States.
<b>WCM Housing Buildings</b>	All housing properties owned and/or operated by WCM.
<b>Domicile*</b>	The residence where a person has a permanent home or principal establishment and to where, whenever absent, s/he intends to return. Every person is compelled to have one and only one domicile.

## MEETING FAMILY HOUSING CRITERIA

### I. MARRIAGE

Present a valid marriage certificate.

### II. DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP

A. To be considered for family housing as domestic partners at WCM, two individuals must fulfill all of the following requirements:

1. Current New York residents must have filed a *New York City Domestic Partnership Agreement* at the time of application. Those from outside New York City must present to the Housing Office a valid New York City Domestic Partnership Agreement within 30 days after arriving in New York City.
2. Meet the legal age requirement for marriage and not be related by blood in a manner that would bar marriage in the state or country of the domiciled residence in effect at the time of the application and be mutually competent to consent to a contract.
3. Meet all legal age requirements concerning cohabitation with minors as required by New York State law.
4. Be responsible for each other's common welfare and share financial obligations by
  - \*a. Providing a valid joint lease or mortgage document that demonstrates having lived together on a continuous basis and within the immediate 12 months prior to submitting an application for housing and by also meeting one (1) one of the following conditions below:
  - b. Ownership of an actively used joint bank account, joint credit account, or joint ownership of a motor vehicle.
  - c. Designation of domestic partner as primary beneficiary in a will or trust document.
  - d. Assignment of durable property or health care power of attorney to domestic partner.
  - e. Designation of domestic partner as beneficiary for life insurance or retirement benefits.

\*(If the condition of cohabitation, Item 4a, cannot be met, then two (2) of the above documents, 4b through 4e, must be provided. All conditions must have pre-existed for a minimum of one year and within the immediate 12 months prior to submitting an application).

B. Student applicants for domestic partnership:

1. When applying for financial aid, you must provide the required financial information and documentation for both individuals of the domestic partnership. Financial aid decisions and awards will be based on the combined assets of the domestic partners.
2. The WCM Housing Office will send a letter to the Office of Financial Aid advising that office of all approved applications for domestic partnership.

### III. **AFFIDAVIT**

All applicants for family housing whether married or in a domestic partnership must file a notarized *Weill Cornell Medicine Affidavit for Family Housing*. Applications will not be considered unless a valid affidavit is on file.

### IV. **CHILDREN**

Provide a valid birth certificate, adoption papers (an application for adoption is NOT sufficient) or passport indicating the parentage of the child.

### V. **QUALIFYING IRS DEPENDENT**

A qualifying dependent is a person who has been declared as a dependent under the primary resident's United States Federal tax return for the tax year before the date of application for housing. The person must qualify as a dependent under the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service of the United States, regardless of the fact that the person may be considered as a dependent under the law of another nation.

### VI. **CHANGE IN QUALIFYING STATUS**

All individuals who obtain Family Housing must maintain eligibility status while in WCM Housing. The Housing Office must be notified of the termination of marriage, domestic partnership, or change in IRS dependent status within two weeks of such an occurrence. All family housing residents will be required to vacate the family housing unit to which they have been assigned if they no longer qualify under this Policy. If requested, the WCM student/employee will be reassigned to other appropriate housing subject to availability. Failure to provide such information in a timely fashion will lead to loss of housing privileges.

### VII. **FALSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTATION**

Falsification of documents and records to certify eligibility for family housing will result in a loss of housing. Furthermore, any student or employee falsifying records will be sent for review under the provision of *the Code of Professional Conduct* for medical students and the *Code of Legislation of the Faculty and the Graduate School of Medical Sciences* for graduate students and employees.

### VIII. **NYC DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION**

Office of the City Clerk

(212) 669-8190

## **\*RELEVANT FACTORS FOR DOMICILE DETERMINATION**

In determining domicile for the purposes of Housing, all surrounding circumstances, in addition to expressed intention, must be considered. The factors listed below are relevant in a determination of domicile:

1. Residence
2. Financial independence, income sources, and business pursuits
3. Residence for tax purposes
4. Place of voter registration
5. Marital status
6. Age
7. Situs of motor vehicle and other personal property registration
8. Situs of real and personal property
9. Location of checking and savings accounts
10. Place of employment
11. Telephone directory listing
12. Place of draft registration

An eligible applicant who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed out-of-state may qualify as a family member. Proof of domicile, referred to as a "Home of Record," must be submitted. Such records are on file at the person's military base.

Not all of the above factors need to be considered in a domicile determination, nor is the list exhaustive. Rather, a domicile determination depends upon a composite appraisal of all of the facts presented by each case. Conclusions must be based upon the weighting of the circumstances; no single factor is controlling and no all-embracing rules are possible. The determination of domicile is at the sole discretion of the WCM Housing Office.