When Students Become Neighbors

With their beauty, nearby location, and abundance of activities, the cities of Coral Gables and South Miami are popular choices for University of Miami students who wish to live off campus.

Choosing to live in either of these cities, however, means that you also assume certain responsibilities that go with being a resident of “The City Beautiful” (Coral Gables) or “The City of Pleasant Living” (South Miami).

While the University does not directly monitor off-campus living, it does expect that all students will conduct themselves in a manner that will positively reflect on themselves and the University. Students living off campus are subject to all of the rules and regulations contained in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, as well as all local, state, and federal laws. To download a copy of the handbook, visit www.miami.edu/srr.

If you have questions at any time, please feel free to contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 305-284-4922 or the Dean of Students Office at 305-284-5353.

What You Need to Know

This pamphlet acquaints you with the Coral Gables and South Miami codes that are most likely to affect you. The codes share many similarities; some of the differences between the two cities are highlighted for your reference.

Law enforcement officers in both cities are vigilant about enforcing these regulations. Therefore, it is essential that students understand and adhere to these guidelines to create a good relationship with neighbors, avoid problems with the city in which they live, and maintain their good standing at the University. Students who repeatedly violate these ordinances could face University probation, suspension, or expulsion.

We hope you will be a good neighbor and enjoy living in these attractive and convenient areas. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the University’s Dean of Students Office. Thank you for your cooperation.
Parking
Park your car in designated areas or in your driveway or garage—not on the sidewalk or in your front yard. Do not park on your neighbors’ property, driveway, or parking lot. Students who violate parking laws will be subject to citations by city law enforcement officers.

Illegally parked cars may be impounded. City officers in both Coral Gables and South Miami will contact the University with license plate numbers of cars that they believe belong to University students.

In both Coral Gables and South Miami, violators could be subject to $250 fines.

Noise
In both Coral Gables and South Miami, it is unlawful to make or allow noise that annoys or disturbs neighbors, whether within a home or in public places. Noises covered by these ordinances also include car horns, engines, power tools, construction sounds, and animal sounds. Those who violate these ordinances are subject to fines of between $150 to $500 per day.

In Coral Gables, music, shouting, or even talking that can be heard at a distance of 100 feet from a home, apartment unit, or vehicle is prohibited between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and from 12 a.m. to 7 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

In South Miami, bothersome noises such as those outlined above are prohibited from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day of the week (fines are from $200 to $500).

Garbage, Trash, and Recycling
It is unlawful to deposit garbage on any lot, premises, street, alley, parkway, park, or waterway within either Coral Gables or South Miami. All household refuse must be placed in closed garbage containers with closely fitting lids.

In Coral Gables, kitchen waste and recycling containers are kept screened from public view behind the front façade of residences and are serviced from this location. Discarded household items and vegetative waste placed out on the night before collection are collected from the curb.

In South Miami, residents are provided a 96-gallon container by the Public Works Department. If the home in which you are living does not have such a container, it must be purchased for $65; personal garbage cans may not be used. Miami-Dade County can provide a recycling container if needed. Bulky waste and large tree cuttings are collected once a week. Containers must be placed at curbside (at least five feet from parked cars and other obstacles) with the opening facing the street between 7 p.m. the night before collection and 7 a.m. on collection day, which is twice a week. If you need a replacement container, or information about collection days, call South Miami’s Public Works Department at 305-403-2063.

In Coral Gables and South Miami, if you must throw away a large item such as an appliance, you must schedule and pay for a special pickup appointment. For details, contact the municipalities directly.

Grounds Maintenance
While grounds maintenance is usually the responsibility of the property owner, students living in rental properties may be held responsible for violations. You should be aware that it is unlawful for homes within the city to have weeds, grass, or undergrowth that is 12 inches or higher.

Property must be maintained in a clean, litter-free, and mowed condition, including grass strips, alleys, curbs, swale areas, and rights-of-way. Required maintenance includes mowing the grass and edging, trimming, and cleanup as needed.

In Coral Gables, furniture and other bulky items are not permitted on the lawn or in front of a residence.

GOOD NEIGHBOR TIPS
- Get to know your neighbors. Greet them when passing, and let them know when you are planning a social gathering.
- Be respectful and courteous to the other families in your neighborhood who may not follow the same schedule as you.
- Obey noise ordinances. Keep music and voice levels low, especially at night.
- Keep your yard clean and pick up your trash.
- Adhere to your city’s garbage collection program.
- Park your car in designated areas or in your driveway or garage, not on the sidewalk or in your front yard.

Don’t drink and drive.
Taxi service is available in Coral Gables and South Miami. Call (all area code 305) 444-4444, 777-7777, or 888-8888.

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911.
Roommates
In both Coral Gables and South Miami, no more than three unrelated people are permitted to live in a single residential unit.

Pets
While some students believe that moving off campus is a natural time to get a pet, you will need to make sure that your animal is not a bother or danger to others. Both Coral Gables and South Miami prohibit any pets that create a nuisance by way of noise, odor, or menace to health or safety. It is unlawful for any dog to be at large without being restrained by a leash. Violators could be subject to fines between $150 to $250.

Coral Gables does not allow more than four adult dogs or cats (six months or older) in any household. Cats must have a collar with an attached bell when not confined to a residence building or cage. Wild animals and reptiles require a permit from the city manager.

South Miami does not allow more than six adult dogs (six months or older) in any household without a kennel license. Kennel licenses must be applied for through the city manager. Non-domesticated animals require a permit and approval from the city manager (fines are from $200 to $500).

Pickup Trucks in Residential Areas
Currently, Coral Gables prohibits the parking of pickup trucks or trailers in any residential area, unless the vehicle is entirely enclosed within an enclosed garage. For further information pertaining to this policy, please contact City of Coral Gables Code Enforcement at 305-460-5226 or see Article 4 Section 4-411 of Coral Gables Zoning Code at www.coralgables.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1635

Visitors
As a community resident, you are responsible for the behavior and actions of your guests and visitors. Regardless of your age, the provision of alcohol to underage persons is strictly prohibited and will be enforced by the police departments of both municipalities. Visitors should conduct themselves in a manner demonstrating responsibility and consideration for the neighbors living around you. Guests found to be involved in violations who are also University students will face disciplinary action as well. It is important to also remember that the mode of transportation a visitor uses to arrive at your residence may not necessarily be appropriate when it comes time for your guest to depart (i.e., public transportation hours, safety of walking at night if on foot, etc.).

CITY INFORMATION RESOURCES

Coral Gables
A complete listing of all Coral Gables codes may be obtained from www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=19953&sid=9.
For more information about the City of Coral Gables, visit www.coralgables.com.

South Miami
A complete listing of all of the City of South Miami Code of Ordinances may be obtained from www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=11587&sid=9.
For more information about the City of South Miami, visit www.southmiamifl.gov.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
(All are area code 305)

Coral Gables
Coral Gables Police 442-1600
Coral Gables City Hall 446-6800
Coral Gables Code Enforcement 460-5226
Solid Waste Collection Division 460-5346

South Miami
South Miami Police 663-6301
South Miami City Hall 663-6338
South Miami City Manager 668-2510
South Miami Code Enforcement 668-7335
South Miami Public Works (Trash) 403-2063

University of Miami
UM Police 284-6666
UM Hurricane Hotline 284-5151
UM Information 284-2211
UM Off-Campus Student Services 284-4505
UM Student Health Services 284-9100
UM Counseling Center 284-5511
Pier 21 (Alcohol/Drug Education) 284-6120
UM Sexual Assault Response Team 798-6666
UM Dean of Students 284-5353
UM Vice President for Student Affairs 284-4922

Additional Information
Refer to the University’s Off-Campus Housing Handbook at www.miami.edu/housing (click on Off-Campus Housing) for further information about living off campus.