

## INTERPRETIVE MEMO

3SquaresVT Rule Interpretation

Procedural Instruction

This memo remains effective statewide until it is specifically superseded – either by a subsequent memo or by a contradictory rule with a later date.

Please file in your manual facing the page indicated below.

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This memo:  is new  Replaces one dated 9/8/1983

**QUESTION:** Are shared households a legitimate living arrangement for 3SquaresVT (3SVT)? These are situations where two or more households purchase and prepare meals separately and share living quarters.

**ANSWER:** Yes. A shared household is when two or more households each pay a portion of the rent, mortgage, taxes, utilities and/or other shelter expenses. Any number of 3SVT households might live together and share costs in one housing unit. However, the combined total of the shared portions can not exceed the actual cost incurred for the housing unit. For example, if four households share rent of \$500 for a home, the total of all shares can not be greater than \$500.

**QUESTION:** Is there a clear-cut way to tell the difference between a shared living arrangement and a roomer situation?

**ANSWER:** Use these guidelines: If each household pays its share separately to the landlord, then it is a shared arrangement. When one household collects shares from one or more of the other households to pay to the landlord, it is probably a shared arrangement. If one household pays a share to another household but does not contribute towards fuel and utilities review the case closely to determine if is a shared arrangement, as claimed, or if one household should be considered a roomer.

Roomers are individuals or families living with others and paying a flat fee for lodging. They do not pay a separate amount for utilities. If there are multiple roomers the combined payments can be greater than the incurred cost of the housing unit. For example, if the rent for a house is \$500 and three households pay room rent to a 4<sup>th</sup> household the room rent amounts can be greater than \$500.

**QUESTION:** Can one of the households be the landlord?

**ANSWER:** Yes. A landlord can be in a shared living arrangement just like anyone else.

