



Wood Ridge HOA – Community Safety Q&A

Why isn't the HOA sharing information about people with criminal histories who live in or near our neighborhood?

The HOA is not a law-enforcement agency and does not have the authority to investigate, monitor, or distribute criminal background information about private individuals. Sharing such information—about residents or non-residents—creates legal and ethical risks for the Association, including the potential for misinformation, defamation, or harassment.

But isn't safety part of the HOA's responsibility?

The Board is responsible for the safety and maintenance of **HOA property and common areas**. Broader public-safety matters fall under the jurisdiction of local law enforcement. To remain within our legal authority, the HOA must rely on official public-safety agencies rather than issuing its own warnings about individuals.

What if a homeowner believes someone nearby poses a threat?

Any concerns about potential threats should be reported directly to law enforcement. They are trained and authorized to assess risk, investigate, and issue public alerts when necessary. The HOA cannot evaluate or verify criminal information and will not distribute warnings about private individuals.

Can the HOA share information about a resident or non-resident with a criminal history?

The HOA does not publish or interpret criminal background information about residents or non-residents. The only exception is when law enforcement issues an official notice that directly affects the community. In such cases, the HOA may share **the official notice itself**, without commentary.



Where can homeowners find accurate information about offenders or criminal activity?

Residents can access legally-verified, up-to-date information through official public-safety resources, including:

- **Montana Sexual or Violent Offender Registry**
- **Flathead County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Updates**
- **Local law-enforcement crime maps and bulletins**

These sources are the appropriate channels for community members seeking information about offenders or criminal activity in the surrounding area.

Why can't the HOA summarize or interpret information from public registries?

Even though registries are public, the HOA risks misinterpretation, outdated information, or accidental misrepresentation if it summarizes or republishes details. To avoid liability, the HOA will only direct residents to the official sources.

Is the HOA ignoring safety concerns?

Not at all. The Board takes safety seriously and encourages residents to stay informed through official channels. Our commitment is to operate responsibly, legally, and within the scope of our governing documents—while supporting a safe and respectful community.

What should residents do if they want more information?

Residents should consult the official resources listed above or contact local law enforcement directly. These agencies are equipped to provide accurate information and guidance.