

SIGNS OF A SICK HOUSE

A gradual change occurs as a house moves away from Oxford House principles and moves toward individuals who believe they have a better way of doing things. Oxford Houses function best when the members follow the principles of democracy, financial self-support and zero tolerance for using. Below are listed some telltale signs to indicate a house is not functioning well. Are one or more of these signs occurring in your house? If so, it is time to take corrective action. If you are unable to reach a solution, then it might be time to call in your Housing Service Committee or another house in your area for help.

Signs:

- Someone is using and not asked to leave or may leave for only a few days and the house accepts him/her back.
- Rents are not being collected; the house accepts excuses for non-payment.
- House bills are not being paid in a timely fashion.
- Monthly audits are not conducted on the books.
- House meetings are not being held regularly, or if they are, it is a race to see how fast it can be completed.
- “How goes it” or personal processing time after house meetings is being ignored.
- Every effort is not being made to fill empty beds.
- The house is dirty inside and out.
- There is no participation in chapter or other Oxford House activities.
- Individuals are not working or are not practicing an active program of recovery.
- One or two individuals are running the house.