



BIG HAUS  
SOCIETY

RESIDENT  
HANDBOOK

# WHO ARE WE:

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Evan and Leslie Wilson bought the Big Haus in 1980 with the thought of opening their home to young Christian singles. Since that time they have had over 300 live with them and have raised their four children in this very social environment.

Evan Wilson is pastor of the All Souls Christian Church and a teacher, philosopher, and writer at the Haus. His interests are in philosophy, fine arts, literature, and history.

Leslie Wilson is a homemaker with a gift. Her cooking and entertaining is the stuff of legend, and she has especial abilities in vocal music. Leslie is responsible for All Souls Christian's music (she plays piano).

Together Evan and Leslie have established a ministry based on their abilities which uses the environment of the Haus to reach and benefit lives. It is called The Big Haus Society. Involvement in this ministry is not an obligation of Haus residents. A resident should be aware of ministry activities and, if they choose, to benefit from it.

The Wilson's four children are all in their majority, and all are solid Christians.



# WELCOME TO THE BIG HAUS

We are thankful you have considered the Big Haus for a Christian living environment. Since 1980, we have tried to be a spiritual and practical service to the saints who both work and go to school in Moscow, Idaho. As the decades have gone by, we have referred to a broad base of standards we hold to as “our understandings”. We inform every resident of them as they move in, but everyone’s memory is not what it should be. Sometimes we forget to bring up a topic during an interview, and sometimes a resident fails to listen. We needed to have it all summed up and written down so that everyone—from parents or potential residents to forgetful long termers—could refer to an objective standard. Hence this handbook.

The Big Haus is, first of all, a Christian house and those issues concern us the most.

## SPIRITUAL REQUIREMENTS

To be a long term resident at the Big Haus you must be a Christian. By this we mean that each resident must have expressed a personal belief in the Gospel — that the death of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only means of forgiveness of sins (see the back cover of this handbook for a statement of the Gospel). The life of the Big Haus resident must obviously reflect that belief. The means by which belief is made evident are a person’s moral conduct in regard to sexual behavior, alcohol and drugs, violence, honesty and attitudes.

### C H U R C H :

Besides the moral quantities in a person’s life we assume that each Haus resident will desire to be in fellowship on a weekly basis at the church of their choice. While we don’t require strict attendance (nor do we check), a “too frequent pattern” of skipping church would be a concern.

### B I B L E S T U D I E S :

There is generally a Bible study or two occurring in the Haus on a weekly schedule. Residents of the Big Haus are welcome to attend these, but are in no way required to do so.

### H O U S E D I S C U S S I O N S :

Given the presence of Christians from many differing positions regarding secondary doctrines and various life issues (politics and philosophy) it is natural for discussions to come up. These discussions often occur at the dinner table and can run on into the evening. Throughout a period of over thirty years these discussions have been considered one of the most beneficial aspects of Haus life.

That benefit can be easily lost without the presence of Christian attitudes. Big Haus residents must respect the views of their Hausmates, especially if they wish to participate in these discussions, however, participation is not required.

### PERSONAL COUNSEL :

Evan and Leslie are both available for counsel on any number of issues, but will only give counsel if invited directly or indirectly. The one exception to this principle is in the event of a moral problem in the life of a resident. In such a case Evan and Leslie would involve themselves regardless of invitation.

## AUTHORITY STRUCTURE

In order to run a house smoothly a level of hierarchy is essential. As owners of the Big Haus, Evan and Leslie Wilson are the ultimate authorities in the secular matters regarding Haus order. It is expected that a resident would respond in the affirmative to any request for help or the adjustment of any condition that adds disorder.

The Wilson family is not one that has or insists on much privacy, but a resident should allow the normal distance to exist, and then find out how much inclusion the family extends. This would also apply to our more personal possessions or those of the office kind. These are generally off the daily track of the Haus resident (in our rooms or office) but should the resident need something of ours they should ask each time.

## RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

### F I N A N C I A L :

Any one who is a resident of the Big Haus must have some means of paying their rent, and preferably on time (by the 5th of each month for the coming month). If a resident experiences an inability to pay on time we are able to adjust if we are notified in a timely fashion. Not notifying us gives the appearance of forgetfulness and irresponsibility.

The current rates are as follows:

Private room	\$575.00 per month
Shared room	\$500.00 per month per person

### CONTRACT UNDERSTANDINGS:

At the Big Haus we have no lease and no damage deposit, but we do have a \$50 cleaning deposit (refundable on an inspected room at end of residence). We operate on the basis of honor in the Christian. If a resident is planning on moving out of the Big Haus we expect at least 30 days notice. If residents break

or damage something of significant value (more than just a broken glass or plate, etc.) we expect them to do the honorable thing and replace or repair it, or pay for replacement or repairs — without asking if they need to do so.

## S U M M E R T I M E :

If a Big Haus resident leaves the Haus for the summer but wishes to return in the fall with a guaranteed room he or she must pay the summer holding fee for each month of absence. That fee is currently \$280.00 per month. Mid-month departures are pro-rated with a combination of normal and summertime rents to the day.

During the summer months it is not uncommon for unoccupied rooms to be used for guests and temporary residents. It is our policy that guests and temporary residents be of the same moral caliber as regular Haus residents, however, if a Haus resident is uncomfortable with leaving his or her things in a room where others might be staying, then they may box those things up and store them elsewhere in the Haus for the summer.

## CHORES:

### D I N N E R C L E A N U P :

The most regular chore experienced by the Big Haus resident is that of kitchen clean-up. After each dinner all Haus residents who ate that dinner are expected to cooperate in Kitchen Clean-up. There is a sign-up list of duties in the kitchen which is very quickly completed when there are many hands helping. If a resident has an immediate after dinner obligation, they may request to be excused from clean-up that evening. This should be only used for true obligations and not be too frequent. If a particular “meal attendance” drops down to three or fewer residents then Leslie and/or Evan may help with the clean-up.

### K I T C H E N U S E :

Since preparation of breakfasts, lunches and snacks are the responsibility of the resident there are many opportunities for messes to occur in the kitchen. Haus residents are expected to thoroughly clean up after themselves every time they use the kitchen. It is expected that the kitchen be left as clean as it was when you entered, and it is always appreciated if you leaved it **cleaner** than when you entered. Everyone fails to completely clean up at some point; make up for it by cleaning up after someone else.

### T H E D I S H W A S H E R :

What a help to have a dishwasher! However, when it is full of clean dishes it needs to be unloaded. This takes less than five minutes to do and is a random chore for EVERYONE. If you have dirty dishes to load into the dishwasher but it

is full, you may stack yours on the counter **neatly** and run the washer. The same applies if it is already running. If it is full of clean dishes then you may either unload it and then put in your dirty dishes, or you may hand wash, dry and put away your dirty dishes.

## B E D R O O M S :

We expect Big Haus residents to keep their rooms clean with regular vacuuming and immediate clean-up of spills. The **neatness** of the room is entirely up to the resident, but a person may incur fines if a shortage of dishes in the cupboards results in the discovery of many dishes in his or her room that must be retrieved and washed.

## B A T H R O O M S :

Bathrooms need to be cleaned frequently. We expect that they will be cleaned once a week. The cleaning of each bathroom is the responsibility of the persons using it as their regular bathroom. One person of the set who uses a bathroom should arrange the cleaning schedule. The Wilsons will take care of their bathroom, along with the half bath on the basement stairs.

## H O U S E C L E A N I N G :

The public areas on the first floor are cleaned by Leslie and by any hired help we have, as it is affordable. We do request that residents keep their eye on the stuff they leave about and do what they can to maintain general neatness. The third floor has a public area and we would appreciate that space being regularly vacuumed, dusted, and straightened. Leslie does not get that far in her weekly cleaning. Those who smoke have a duty the same as any whose activity leaves extra mess. If you drink a can of pop somewhere in the Haus, you should not leave the can lying about. It is the same with pipe and cigar aficionados. Pipe cleaners, messy tissues, matches, and especially ash should be dealt with at the time of leaving the room. And never place anything that was ever been "hot" in a trash can.

## SPECIAL WORK REQUESTS:

Throughout the year there may be a need for a job to be accomplished in the Haus or in the yard. Some examples are leaf raking, snow shovelling, porch and step sweeping, irregular kitchen help, and irregular Haus clean-up jobs. We expect that if Haus residents are made aware of the need they will attempt to meet the need out of a generous heart, and as soon as possible.

## FOOD:

While living in the Big Haus, residents can eat all of their meals and snacks out of food purchased for the Haus. The only regular meals that are prepared for

Haus residents are weekday dinners and Sunday dinner (see special requirements for Sunday). A weekly menu will generally be posted on Wednesdays. All other meals and snacks will be prepared by the individual residents, and any mess generated in the process will be cleaned up by that resident. On rare occasions Leslie will have events that prevent her from cooking a dinner. She will give at least one day notification and residents will either fend for themselves, or one or more can volunteer to cook for the Haus.

In an attempt to keep food costs low and reduce wasted food, there will be very little "prepared snack food" available, such as cookies, snack crackers, pop, chips, etc. If a resident habitually enjoys some such food he or she will need to supply his or her own. Fruit is also an item minimally purchased, due to the expense of it, the problems of storing large amounts (for many people) and its perishable quality. Fruit will be on the menu and served in a salad or platter form about once a week, and there will be a piece or two per person per week when a good deal is found. As with other snack foods, if a resident **must have** lots of fruit in their diet then they will need to buy their own.

## S I G N O U T S :

Each resident is expected at each weekday meal unless they sign out. This allows Leslie to both adjust the amount she cooks and to set the table appropriately. Consequently residents should sign out in person or by phone as early as possible. The later a sign out occurs the more necessary it is to notify Leslie directly.

If a Haus resident can not be present for a meal but still wishes to eat the food when he or she returns home later, the resident may sign out on the calendar as a "SAVE", in which case food from that dinner would be saved for him or her. If that person then comes home and chooses not to eat their saved food that evening, unless they dish it onto a plate and mark it with their name it becomes fair game as leftovers for other residents. The privilege of signing out for a "save" has sometimes been abused by those who figure out that they can avoid the kitchen clean-up duty by "saving" and eating dinner later, after clean-up is over. This is not the purpose of "saves". If a Haus resident is home and able to attend dinner then he or she is expected to attend. Obviously, illness or lack of hunger would be legitimate reasons to be home and not attend dinner, but every effort should be made to be "hungry enough" at dinner time on a regular basis. You don't live with others in order to avoid them.

## S U N D A Y D I N N E R :

On Sundays Haus residents are welcome to join the Wilsons at approximately 1:00 pm for an "after-Church-dinner". While residents are **expected** to show up at the weeknight meals unless they sign out, they are **not expected** to show up for Sunday Dinner unless they sign in. A weekly sign-in sheet will be made available on Saturdays. If one wishes to join in this meal he or she should sign up no later than 10 pm Saturday to allow for appropriate planning (thawing

no more meat than necessary). Residents need to be aware that in signing in for Sunday Dinner they are committing themselves to helping to PREPARE the meal, as well as clean up afterwards. This policy was instituted due to the many commitments Leslie has on Sunday mornings, combined with the earlier hour for the meal and a need to experience some degree of rest. In most cases the prep help can be accomplished in 15 to 20 minutes (per resident).

## G U E S T S :

Hospitality is the focus of the Big Haus. We encourage the residents to invite people over for meals. Before inviting someone a resident needs to check with Leslie about which day they are considering, to make sure that there will be enough food, or to ascertain whether or not there are already guests coming that day. All guests invited should be signed IN on the daily calendar. There is no extra charge for guests, but help from the "hosting" resident in preparing the meal would involve them in some of the responsibility of the hospitality. If your guests are visiting from out of town and will be with us for a few days the hosting resident needs to contribute some extra food money to cover that increased expense.

## A L C O H O L :

We do not prohibit the consumption of alcohol. However, we uphold the laws of the State of Idaho by prohibiting persons under the age of 21 from consuming alcohol on our premises. If a minor's parents are present and grant the minor permission to drink then the law does not forbid it. To honor God's laws, we do not allow anyone of any age to drink to a point of drunkenness.

## BANQUETS AND PARTIES:

Throughout the year there are occasions when the Wilsons will have special LARGE dinners. Sometimes these are paid events, other times they are free parties. Sometimes Haus residents are invited to participate and at other times they are not. Prior notification of these events is always given, and residents just need to be aware of the possibility of their occurrence, and need to respect the preparation and occurrence of the event.

## H O L I D A Y S :

We enjoy celebrating holidays. If residents are present for holidays they are welcome to celebrate with us.

## UTILITIES:

The cost of rent for Big Haus residents does not alter with the fluctuating power and water bills. Therefore, when bills are high, the Wilsons just pay more. Because of this we request and expect that residents not set their room



thermostats above 70 degrees, turn them lower at night, and turn them lower when they will be away from their rooms for several hours. We also appreciate residents being aware of when they are allowing water to run.

## T E L E P H O N E S :

There is one residential phone line in the Big Haus that is paid for by the Wilsons. There are seven extensions of that line. Everyone is welcome to use this line for their average local phoning needs. Long distance calls must be made on a resident's cell phone as we do not have long distance calling on our land line.

When the phone rings in the Haus the residents should be ready to answer it and search for the person called. If you are on the Third or Second Floor and can reach the phone when it rings, answering it may save another person from an unnecessary trip to notify the person called. It is less of an imposition if more than one person answers a call. This is especially true and helpful between the hours of 5 and 6 pm when Leslie is busy with dinner prep. Also, please notify family and friends to refrain from calling the Big Haus line after 10 pm.

The Haus line does have a messaging function. When you retrieve a message you should write down the content and leave a note for the correct party. If a message is long and complicated, save the message for the person and write a note informing them that they have a saved message.

The Wilson's phone needs to be available to serve the phone needs of many.

## I N T E R N E T :

Internet is free but you will need a wireless card to connect. Our service is TimeWarner Cable broadband.

## L A U N D R Y :

There is, in the basement, a washer and dryer. A schedule is posted above them. That schedule is made up of three 6-hour slots per day for laundry. Each resident may sign up for ONE slot per week. During that time period the washer and dryer are for that resident only, unless that resident has granted permission to someone else to use their time. The Big Haus also provides laundry detergent and fabric softener sheets for residents' use. If a resident needs to use a particular brand due to skin allergies or personal preference, then that resident will need to buy his or her own detergent.

**SOMETHING TO NEVER DO:** NEVER THROW SOMEONE ELSE'S CLOTHES IN THE DRYER, THINKING YOU ARE HELPING THEM OUT. THEY MAY HAVE THINGS IN THEIR LAUNDRY THAT MUST BE LINE DRIED, WHICH YOU WILL RUIN BY MACHINE DRYING THEM.

## UNATTENDED LAUNDRY:

Residents should always leave an empty laundry basket by the washer and/or dryer when they have their laundry in the respective machines. This

provides a place for someone to put your clothes if you should not return to deal with them before your laundry time is up (and theirs starts). There is a table available, but when life gets busy, sometimes many people's laundry gets piled up and mixed up on the table, leaving no place for the next person to fold their laundry, not to mention an unsightly mess. Any sort of unattended to or uncontained laundry should be placed (and subsequently found) in the "unattended laundry bin".

#### L I N T I S S U E S :

The washer is set up to drain into the utility sink next to it. To prevent excessive lint from developing a clog down in the pipe below we have placed a lint netting over the end of the hose. We replace these with some frequency but let Leslie know if you have noticed it is very clogged up. There is also a built in lint filter in the dryer which you should check at the beginning of your use and remove any lint before turning th dryer on.

## MISCELLANEOUS

#### R O M A N C E :

It sometimes happens that, given the close proximity of attractive Christians, people fall in love. Sometimes they get married. Between the love and the marriage we expect that they comport themselves in a seemly fashion. To avoid suspicion, talk, or temptations we expect that anytime one member of the opposite sex is in your room (without the presence of other company) the door will remain open. This applies whether there is a romantic relationship or not. Any romantically involved couple ought to persist in well mannered behavior so that the others in the Haus can remain comfortable.

#### M O D E S T Y :

Young ladies should be conscious of their male Hausmates when walking the halls of the Haus. Because it is like "home" does not mean these gentlemen are your brothers. Regarding young men insufficiently dressed, we have had at times, complaints from women, and not because they were stumbled into lust. Young men should cover up in public areas so as not to gross the girls out.

#### T O B A C C O :

Evan Wilson smokes a pipe and cigars. We do not think tobacco use is a moral issue, but it is a politeness issue. We request that cigarettes be smoked outside unless it is a guest wishing to smoke, in which case you offer them an ashtray. Cigars and pipes are allowed inside (generally in the library and, in the case of cigars, with the exhaust fan on) but the smoker must be always overtly

polite regarding other people who share that space. Always use an ashtray for matches and ash, not garbage cans, as this can start fires. After a person is done smoking, they are obliged to empty the ashtray(s) into the "fire bucket" provided. If you have left a "dusting" of ash on an endtable, please use a tissue to dust it off. Keeping the smoking room clean make it less smelly and welcomeing to all. If at any time someone complains of real pain (as in a migraine) from the smell of smoke we expect that the gentlemen smoking will either put out the cigar or go outside *graciously*. Aversion to the smell of smoke does not constitute "real pain". Anyone who has problems, emotional or physical, with smoking and its smell, should not live at the Big Haus.

### M U S I C :

All kinds of music is played in the Big Haus. Not everyone likes all kinds. Let each be gracious, and volume is the best measure of graciousness.

### C U R F E W :

There is no curfew at the Big Haus. The Haus is never locked. You can stay up all night if you wish. However, there is a **noise** curfew. We consider normal rising and bed times to be 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. respectively. Any one up early or staying up late must recognize that normal people are in bed and do not wish to be disturbed. All music, TV or conversation must be carried on softly or in a location far enough away from the bedrooms. This restriction is set aside on special occasions, such as a Haus party. Anyone who goes to bed early or sleeps in late must expect normal life to potentially disturb them. It is a price we pay for living together.

# THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



# THE GOSPEL

## THE GOSPEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

DEUTERONOMY 6:49  
I CHRONICLES 28:9  
PROVERBS 9:10:12

GENESIS 3:1-24  
PSALMS 14:1-3

ECCLESIASTES 12:1-3:14

DEUTERONOMY 11:1-16:17  
EZEKIEL 18:1-4

DANIEL 9:1-8

ISAIAH 53:1-12  
ZECHARIAH 11:4-14  
ISAIAH 9:1-7

PSALMS 16:9-11

JOEL 2:3-2  
ISAIAH 57:1-5:21  
PSALMS 51:1-19  
JONAH 3:1-4:11

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

JOB 19:25-26

## THE LORD YAHWEH,

the "I Am", the Almighty God,  
maker of Heaven and Earth,  
the Most High and the Most Holy,  
He exists and He rewards those who seek Him.

**YOU HAVE** Every man has sinned against this Holy God.

This God will judge every man justly for what he has done.

What **YOU HAVE** done deserves destruction.

**YOU HAVE** Man can do nothing to save himself  
**YOURSELF** from the wrath of the Almighty.

God, out of His love and mercy  
in accordance with what He had spoken  
through His prophets in the Scriptures,  
sent (as Father) Himself (as Son)  
to be born in the likeness of man,  
Jesus the Christ, who,  
after leading a sinless and holy life,  
was put to death on a cross  
as a sacrifice for man's sin.

But Death,  
also in accordance with the Scriptures,  
could not hold the Christ, and  
after three days Jesus rose from the dead.  
After appearing to many,  
He ascended into Heaven.

**IF YOU** Any who believe these things,  
**YOUR** and turning from their sins,  
call on the Name of the Lord Jesus  
for forgiveness,

God will not destroy  
and will give, in this World,  
a new nature by His Holy Spirit,  
and in the next,  
by the resurrection of the dead,  
Eternal Life.

## THE GOSPEL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW 22:34-40  
HEBREWS 11:6

ROMANS 3:9-23/5:12

ROMANS 2:11-16/14:10-12  
II CORINTHIANS 5:10

REVELATION 20:11-5:21:8  
GALATIANS 5:17-21

ROMANS 7:7-25  
EPHESIANS 2:8-9

ROMANS 5:8  
II CORINTHIANS 5:21  
I PETER 2:21-25  
JOHN 3:16

ACTS 2:22-32  
I CORINTHIANS 15:3-28

ACTS 2:38-42  
ROMANS 10:1-17  
I CORINTHIANS 15:51-57

II CORINTHIANS 5:17  
JOHN 3:37

JOHN 5:19-29  
II CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

A M E N & A M E N

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."