

HELP IS AVAILABLE

To find out if you are eligible and to connect with a free lawyer, go to:

www.legalhelpmd.org

Or scan this with your phone's camera:



The earlier you reach out, the better, so visit www.legalhelpmd.org today!

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FREE LAWYERS FOR TENANTS IN MARYLAND

ACCESS TO COUNSEL IN EVICTIONS PROGRAM





ACCESS TO COUNSEL IN EVICTIONS PROGRAM

Are you at risk of eviction? Have you been told you may lose your housing voucher or subsidy? You may be eligible for a **free lawyer**. Lawyers with the Access to Counsel in Evictions Program can represent you in these kinds of cases:

- **Failure to Pay Rent:** Landlords file this case when they believe you owe back rent.
- **Breach of Lease:** Landlords file this case when they believe you have violated the lease.
- **Tenant Holding Over:** Landlords file this case when they claim you refuse to leave the property after the lease has ended.
- **Voucher or Other Subsidy Terminations:** The Housing Authority or agency administering your voucher or other housing subsidy starts this case by sending you a termination notice saying you have violated program rules or regulations.

A lawyer might also be able to help if your landlord is pressuring you to move, such as by illegally shutting off utilities.

TENANTS HAVE RIGHTS - AND A LAWYER CAN HELP!

A landlord **cannot** evict a tenant in Maryland without getting a court order and scheduling the eviction through the Sheriff's Department or, in Baltimore County, the Constable's Office.

Tenants have the right to defend themselves against an eviction or subsidy termination. There are many defenses that tenants can raise to try to stop an eviction, but every case is different.

A lawyer can help you understand whether any defenses apply, can help you prepare your case, and will represent you at the trial or hearing.

A lawyer can also negotiate for:

- More time for you to move
- Your landlord to make needed repairs
- Other things as appropriate.

If you have received a notice of a scheduled court hearing and you want to defend your case, you **must attend** the hearing. If you do not go to court, the judge may rule in favor of your landlord.

The Access to Counsel in Evictions Program is administered by Maryland Legal Services Corporation.

Visit:
www.legalhelpmd.org
for more information.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a free lawyer, you must be a tenant living in Maryland and have a household income at or below 50% of Maryland's median income. A program representative will help you determine if you are eligible for free legal help.

VISIT

www.legalhelpmd.org



OTHER RESOURCES

Rental Assistance

For more information and to apply for rental assistance, go to:
dhcd.maryland.gov/pages/evictionprevention

Utility Assistance

For more information and to apply for utility assistance, go to:
dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs

For more information on the court process, visit:
mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/housing.

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