

AT HOME: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



WHEN RENTING/BUYING A HOUSE:

A landlord or seller cannot refuse to rent or sell to you based on your race, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, military background, or disability.

WHEN ENCOUNTERING EVICTION:

No one can evict you without a Notice to Quit, or a judge's order.

Only a judge can order you out of your apartment. A landlord cannot lock you out or shut off the utilities.

You may be evicted for:

- Not paying rent
- Illegal activity in the apartment
- Property damage
- Lease violations

You may raise defenses against eviction for:

- Discrimination
- Failure to follow the lease agreement
- Failure to repair
- Retaliation

If law enforcement arrives at your house,

Do not open the door.

Ask for ID and a warrant to be slid under your door or held up against a window.

Check the warrant: Is it signed by a judge? Does it have accurate information, like your address?

If law enforcement has a warrant, remain silent.

If law enforcement enters without a warrant, tell them you do not consent. Write down everything you remember (i.e. officers' badge, patrol car number, etc.) and file a written complaint with the proper authorities.

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO SAFE LIVING CONDITIONS:

Notify your landlord in writing of conditions that need repairs, and collect photo/video evidence. Create a paper trail.

If your landlord does not respond to complaints, contact a health code enforcement or local board of health to inspect your apartment.

