

LANDLORD RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Make the house or apartment comply with all building, housing and health codes which significantly affect health and safety.
2. Make all repairs necessary to make the house or apartment livable.
3. Keep in good working order all electrical, plumbing, heating, and ventilation systems.
4. Always supply adequate hot water and heat.
5. Keep hallways and stairways safe and sanitary.
6. Provide garbage cans, if four or more units are owned in the same building.
7. Give tenant at least 24 hours' notice with a legitimate reason before entering the rental. A landlord can enter without notice only in an emergency situation. Whether or not a tenant has a lease and in whatever kind of housing being rented, the landlord has a number of obligations the law says he must perform, even if the lease says he does not.

TENANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Pay the rent on time.
- Keep the apartment or house safe and sanitary.
- Dispose of trash and garbage in a sanitary manner.
- Keep all appliances that the landlord provides in good working order.
- Keep the electrical and plumbing fixtures clean and use them properly.
- Not damage the apartment or permit your guest or visitors to do so.
- Not disturb other tenants.
- Permit the landlord to enter the apartment if they make a reasonable request and gives at least 24 hours' notice.

You are responsible to your landlord for any damage you cause. Your landlord can take the money out of your security deposit when you move out and he can sue you for additional damages. However, you are not responsible for normal wear and tear. Taking pictures of the apartment and having a witness (not a relative or person with financial interest) when you move in and when you move out can protect you.

Your landlord can evict you if you do not perform your obligations.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR TENANTS AND LANDLORDS

1. When a tenant does not have a lease, the landlord can increase rent, after giving 30 days' notice, at anytime.
2. A landlord is permitted to request a security deposit of any size. However, if the landlord keeps the deposit for at least six months, he must pay interest on the portion of the deposit which exceeds one month's rent. The deposit may be kept by the landlord when the tenant moves out for any unpaid rent or for damages done to the apartment.
3. When a tenant moves out, they should return the keys and give a new address in writing (keep a copy) to the landlord.
4. Within 30 days, the landlord is required to return the deposit or send a written statement explaining in detail why the deposit or part of it is not returned. If he does not respond at all within the 30 days, you have the right to sue for double the security deposit.
5. A landlord can evict if rent is not paid on time.
6. If there is no lease, a landlord can end a rental agreement by simply giving a tenant 30 days' notice to vacate.
7. Keep copy of all documents and letters.

RENTER

Leasing usually requires signing a legal document which is binding between the landlord and tenant for a definite time period. Renting is usually month-to-month.

Many tenants never sign a lease. If you do not, that does not mean you do not have many of the same rights as tenants who have leases.

If you do not have a lease, you should:

1. *Get the name and address of the landlord.*
2. *Know when and where rent is to be paid.*
3. *Know the utilities you will pay*
4. *Know the utilities the landlord will pay.*
5. *Discuss garbage removal, snow removal and grass cutting.*
6. *Have a witness who would testify regarding any oral agreements.*

If you see things in the rental unit that need to be repaired, it is a good idea not to move in until the repairs are made. If you cannot wait but the landlord promises to make the repairs, write your own dated list of repairs to give to the landlord and keep a copy for yourself.

Be careful if the landlord promises to pay you to make repairs. Make sure that the amount they will pay is definite and their promise is in writing. Oral agreements are not recommended so ask to get all terms and conditions written down.

Anything that is written will protect you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
LORAIN COUNTY'S FAIR HOUSING
CONSULTANT
(216) 361-9240



A GUIDE TO TENANT-LANDLORD RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

LORAIN COUNTY
FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM
226 MIDDLE AVE 5 FL
ELYRIA, OH 44035
(440) 328-2564
(216) 361-9240

