

YOU HAVE HOUSING RIGHTS:

WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET AN EVICTION NOTICE

Reach out for help as soon as you get an eviction notice (Notice to Quit) or anytime you feel pressured, unsafe, or worried about losing housing. Your landlord has to take you to court and only a judge can order you to leave your apartment.

What should you do if your landlord tells you to leave your apartment?

Your landlord has to give you a written eviction notice first.

Your landlord can't just kick you out or change the locks. If the landlord wants you to leave, they have to give you a paper eviction notice (Notice to Quit) and take you to court.

Gather all your paperwork and reach out for help right away!

Contact a legal aid organization to learn about your rights. Call Maine Equal Justice, Pine Tree Legal Assistance or local housing groups as soon as you get a notice. Save your lease and every notice and letter you get from your landlord. You will need them if you go to court.

What are your rights in court?

You have the right to a hearing.

Only a judge can decide if you must move out. It's illegal for your landlord to lock you out or throw away your things without a court order. You must show up to court.

You can ask for an interpreter.

The court must provide an interpreter if you need one. Call the court or go to the clerk's office to tell them you need an interpreter. You can also ask the judge at court!

When do you have to leave your apartment?

Only the police can remove you.

If you lose in court, your landlord should not lock you out or throw away your things. If you lose, around 9 days after court, the police may come and ask you to leave.

Remember: housing discrimination is not allowed!

A landlord cannot evict you because of your race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexuality, family, or disability.



CONTACT US:

Scan the QR code or go to:
maineequaljustice.org/contact-us/

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