

🏠 Rights at Trial

- You can present witnesses and provide documents (such as receipts, photos, letters) if you bring them to court.
- You can ask the landlord and witnesses questions.
- You can review the landlord's documents.
- If you have low-income/affordable housing (Section 8, Voice of the People, etc.) you have additional rights—talk to a lawyer!

🏠 When You Move Out

- After you move out, landlords must return your deposit, or give you an accounting for any deduction they make for repairs.
- You should take pictures, so you can prove you left the apartment in good condition.



🏠 Useful Contacts

Complaints about the condition of your apartment, lack of heat, requests for inspection, and other city services— call 311.

Complaints about discrimination:

Department of Human Relations

740 N. Sedgwick St., Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: (312) 744-4111
TTY: (312) 744-1088
Fax: (312) 744-1081

🏠 Wrongful Evictions:

Uptown People's Law Center

4413 North Sheridan
Chicago, Illinois 60640
phone: 773-769-1411
fax: 773-769-2224
e-mail: UPLC@uplcchicago.org

The Uptown People's Law Center also represents:

- Disabled people who need help applying for Social Security disability benefits, TANF, or a medical card.
- People who have had their rights violated while in prison.

Tenants Have Rights



**4413 North Sheridan
Chicago, Illinois 60640**

**Phone: (773) 769-1411
Fax: (773) 769-2224**

UPLC@uplcchicago.org

🏠 Tenants Have Rights

The Chicago Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance gives you rights as a tenant:

Before You Move In

- Landlords can't discriminate against tenants on the basis of race, sex, having children, or the source of their income (for example, Section 8 or public aid).
- Landlords must give you a receipt for your security deposit before you move into your new apartment.
- Landlords must give you a summary of the Landlord Tenant Ordinance.
- If you are going to pay for your own heat, then the landlord must give you an estimate of how much heat will cost.

While You Are Living In Your Apartment

- Tenants can't be evicted unless your landlord takes you to court.
- Landlords must make repairs in your apartment if it is not up to code.
- Landlords must provide heat from September 15th to June 15th.
- Landlords can't evict you because you ask for repairs, or call City inspectors.
- Landlords can't shut off your lights, turn off your heat, or change the locks on your apartment as a way to make you move.



🏠 Bad Apartment Conditions

If your apartment conditions are bad, you can write a letter to your landlord known as a "14 Day Letter."

- In the letter, explain the poor conditions to your landlord, and ask for them to be fixed within 14 days.
- Say in the letter that if repairs are not done, you will reduce the rent you pay to the decreased property value or the costs of repairs.
- Keep a copy of the letter and proof of its delivery (it can be used in court as evidence).

🏠 If You Are Being Evicted

- You must be served with a summons, and have the right to go to court and tell the judge why you shouldn't be evicted.
- You must be given a Notice of Termination:
 - » If you're behind in rent, you must be given 5 days to pay before your landlord takes you to court.
 - » If you violated your lease, you have the right to fix the violation within 10 days.
 - » If you are a month-to-month tenant, you have the right to 30 days notice.
 - » If you have a written lease, you must be given 60 days notice if the landlord isn't going to renew your lease.
- You have the right to get one extra week (called a continuance) so that you can try to find a lawyer to represent you.
- You have the right to a jury trial (if you are going to do that, go to the Advice Desk on 6th floor of the Daley Center).
- If the judge orders you to move, the landlord must wait for the Sheriff to evict you; landlords can't use "self-help."
- If an order of possession is entered against you, you can file a motion for additional time to move (called a "stay of eviction").