Topics Today

- Who We Are
- Status of Evictions in Cleveland
- COVID-19 Resources
- Right to Counsel – Cleveland
- What to Tell Tenants
Who We Are

Our Mission
To secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

Founded in 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is a non-profit organization which provides free legal assistance to low income people with civil legal problems.
Status of Evictions in Cleveland

Administrative Order Postponed Evictions in March
• No new eviction filings accepted, except for emergencies
• Backlog of 1000 cases

Housing Court re-opens June 15, 2020
• First, Court will address the backlog
• Filings will be accepted
• Hearing set for 30 days
• Hearing will be virtual, unless in-person hearings are requested
COVID-19 Resources

Rent Assistance available now:

• Cuyahoga County:
  • Tenants with children in the household can apply for rent assistance at www.edeninc.org. EDEN needs to use up TANF funding for rent assistance by the end of June.
  • Tenants without children can call Legal Aid at 216-687-1900 or apply online at https://lasclev.org/contact/. We will do a referral to EDEN (different source of funding).
  • Tenants can also call 211

• Ashtabula County: Tenants can be referred to Legal Aid (again, even with no notice). Call 216-687-1900 or apply online at https://lasclev.org/contact/.

• Lake and Geauga Counties: Tenants can be referred to the Fair Housing Resource Center at 440-392-0147.

• Lorain County: Tenants can be referred to UCAN - www.ucanapply.org.
Codified Ordinance 1001-2019

Dates:
- Passed October 1, 2019
- Effective date: July 1, 2020

Tenant Eligibility:
- Tenants with at least one child in the household living at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
  - Family of 4: $26,200 annual income

The Right:
- Right to legal representation
- Partnership between United Way of Greater Cleveland and the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
- Tenants may also be eligible for emergency financial assistance
What to Tell Tenants

• **Pay your rent**, if you can
• Communicate with your landlord if you can’t pay rent
  • Try to negotiate to pay some
  • Tell your Landlord what efforts you are making to secure the rent
• Call Legal Aid for assistance with unemployment/housing
  • Tenant Information Line: 216-861-5955
  • Workers Information Line: 216-861-5899
• Seek rent assistance
  • Call 211, Legal Aid. Churches
Questions?