### **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:**

# Eviction Prevention

Training handout



# About the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR)

CCHR is Canada's leading non-profit organization working to advance the right to housing. We do this through:



### **SERVICES**

Empowering renters to claim their rights and stay housed.



### **EDUCATION**

Sharing knowledge and tools that transform lives.



### POLICY ADVOCACY

Engaging with communities and proposing realistic solutions.



### **RESEARCH**

Creating knowledge and informing evidence-based solutions.



### LAW REFORM

Advancing housing rights legal frameworks.

# About this handout

This handout was developed for participants of CCHR's training session "Know Your Rights: Eviction Prevention."

It is intended for use by renters in Ontario, to inform them about their rights in housing and to help them connect with resources to protect their rights.

This document is intended to be used for information purposes only.

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While financially supported by The Law Foundation of Ontario, CCHR is solely responsible for all content.



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# **Paperwork**

### Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Jon's landlord comes to his door and says I need you to leave in two weeks.

Jon says, "But I thought you had to give me some sort of paper to make it official?"

The landlord says "no – we never put our rental agreement on paper when you moved in, so I don't have to give you a paper to end it."

# **Paperwork**

### Key takeaways

- Landlords must give tenants an official "Notice to End your Tenancy" form to begin the eviction process.
- Tenants have tenant protections even if they don't have a signed lease.
- Important possible exceptions:
  - If you share a bathroom or kitchen with your landlord
  - If you rent from a tenant and share a kitchen or a bathroom
  - If you are living in housing intended for travel

Because the Landlo	Notice to End your Tena ord, a Purchaser or a Family Member Requires the Rental       (Disponible en fran
To: (Tenant's name) include all tenant names	From: (Landlord's name)
Address of the Rental Unit:	
	ead to you being evicted from your home
This is a legal notice that could l	lead to you being evicted from your home
This is a legal notice that could l	

### **Dates**

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Cari's landlord visits Cari and delivers a "Notice to End your Tenancy."

The Notice says "I am giving you this notice because I want to end your tenancy. I want you to move out of your rental unit by the following termination date: 1/5/2025."

The landlord says if Cari does not move out by that date, the landlord can call the police to physically evict Cari from the unit.

# **Dates**

### **Key Takeaways**

- The date on the initial "Notice to End your Tenancy" is a request – not a requirement.
- If a tenant disputes the eviction, they have a right to a hearing at the Landlord and Tenant Board and can stay in their unit until the LTB decides what should happen.

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### **Process**

### Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Sal gets a "Notice to End your Tenancy" that asks him to move out by January 15, 2025.

He doesn't move out.

He continues to pay rent.

The landlord doesn't say anything further to Sal about eviction. Sal worries that he could be evicted at any moment.

# **Process**

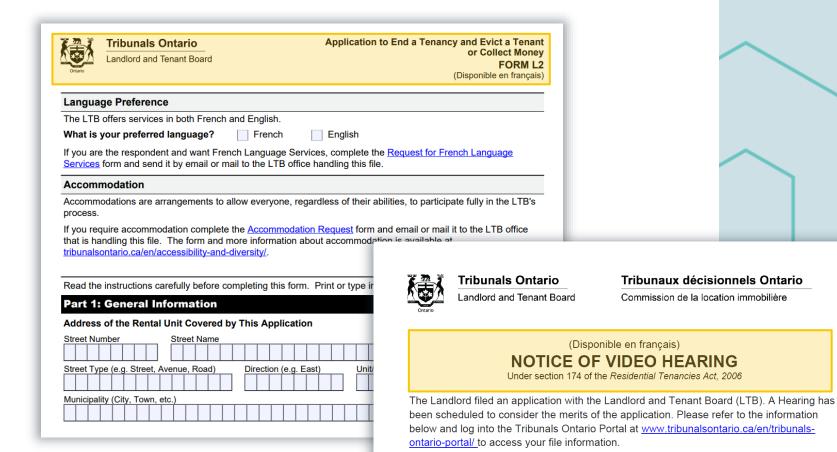
### The eviction process

- 1. Warning
- 2. Notice of Eviction
- 3. Application to the Landlord and Tenant Board to Evict
- 4. Hearing
- 5. Eviction Order
- 6. Enforcement by the Sheriff

### **Process**

Landlords must follow the eviction process, which includes filing at the Landlord and Tenant Board, and in most cases tenants will have a hearing.

Tenants cannot be evicted without following the legal process.



Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Mari's landlord gives her a "Notice to end your Tenancy" that asks Mari to move out in one month.

The landlord says "Mari, if you sign this agreement, then I'll give you two months to move out."

Mari wonders if she should sign the agreement to get a bit of extra time.

### **Key Takeaways**

- Don't sign anything without getting legal advice first.
- You could be signing away your rights to the hearing process at the Landlord and Tenant Board.

	(Disponible en fra
Name of Tenant: include all tenant names	Name of Landlord:
Address of the Rental Unit:	
The landlord and the tenant agree that the	tenancy will end on dd/mm/yyyy

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Tanya is behind in her rent. The landlord gives her a "Notice to end your Tenancy for non-payment of rent." Tanya does not respond.

Tanya receives a L1 Application to Evict and a Hearing Notice that says she has a hearing coming up in six months.

The landlord suggests that Tanya work out a payment agreement with her, to pay back what she owes and "settle things". Tanya wonders what she should do.

### Key Takeaways

- Don't sign anything without getting legal advice first.
- Be careful with mediated payment agreements.
- You could be signing away your rights to the hearing process at the Landlord and Tenant Board.

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Tal lives in an old apartment building that is rent-controlled. He pays \$800/month and his landlord can only increase his rent by 2.5% this year because of rent control rules in Ontario.

The landlord tells Tal he needs to evict Tal because he is not getting enough money from Tal.

### Key takeaways

### Valid reasons for eviction include:

- Non-payment of rent
- Interfering with others, damage, overcrowding
- Illegal acts, misrepresenting income in RGI unit
- Causing serious problems: safety issues, misuse of unit, infringing on LL enjoyment of unit
- Persistent late payment
- Landlord wants to demolish, or do big renovations that require a permit and an empty unit
- Landlord or landlord's family want to move in

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Miller's landlord tells Miller that they have to move out in three months because the landlord's daughter needs Miller's unit for the next six months.

Miller wonders if they have any ability to challenge this eviction.

### Key takeaways

A landlord or landlord's family moving in is a valid reason for eviction ONLY if they move in for at least twelve months.

# **Notice**

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Mara receives a "Notice to End your Tenancy" because the landlord wants to demolish the building.

On the form, the landlord includes a "termination date" that is one month away.

Mara wonders what her options are.

# **Notice**

### Key takeaways

- Landlords have to meet notice requirements.
- If landlords do not meet those requirements, their paperwork may not be valid and they may have to start the process again.
- Notice periods range from 10 days (for illegal acts or "serious problems") to 120 days (for demolition/conversion/repair).

# Compensation

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Blessing lives in a basement apartment. Her landlord gives her a N12 "Notice to End your Tenancy" because his daughter plans to move into the unit.

The landlord offers to give Blessing the value of half a month's rent, as compensation.

Blessing wonders if this is a fair offer.

# Compensation

### Key takeaways

- When landlords give an N12 notice because the landlord or their immediate family is moving in, they have to compensate tenants with one month's rent OR an acceptable alternate unit.
- There are other eviction notices that require landlords to pay compensation. It is important to get legal advice to find out if you are owed compensation.

# Leaving

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Marg received an N5 "Notice to End your Tenancy" and stayed in her unit.

She received a copy of a L2 "Application to evict" and a "Notice of LTB Hearing". Marg attended the LTB hearing. The LTB agreed with the landlord and issued an Order to Evict on January 1, 2025. Marg stayed in her unit.

The Landlord applied to the Sheriff's office to evict Marg. The Sheriff showed up to physically evict Marg (and to change the locks) on January 15, 2025.

Does Marg have to leave?

# Leaving

Key takeaways

Only the Sheriff can physically evict a tenant and arrange to have the locks changed.

# Belongings

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Yasmeena receives an eviction order from the Landlord and Tenant Board, that says she has to move out on July 2, 2023. She moves out on July 2, and plans to go back and get her things on July 4.

When Yasmeena goes back, the landlord says she has thrown away all of Yasmeena's things.

# Belongings

### Key takeaways

- Landlords can keep, sell, or throw out things that a tenant leaves behind. Don't leave anything behind.
- The rules are a little different if the Sheriff evicts you. Then, you have 72 hours to take your belongings.

# Illegal lockouts

Do any alarms go off for you with this scenario?

Mal calls you because he just came home from work, his landlord is in his doorway, and is in the process of changing his locks.

Mal had no idea the landlord was planning to evict him.

Mal wants to know what to do.

# Illegal lockouts

### Key takeaways

- Tenants can call the Rental Housing Enforcement Unit for an eviction in progress
- If the tenant is comfortable doing so, the tenant may also call 911
- The tenant can also reach out to their local legal clinic, including after an illegal lockout has occurred

# Getting Help



# **Key tips**

Don't sign anything until you get legal advice.

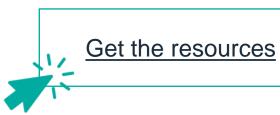
Don't assume an eviction notice is valid until you get legal advice.

Keep notes and communicate with the landlord where possible in writing.

You may have some rights even after eviction, especially in cases of landlord's own use or renovations – get legal advice.

# **Getting help**

Our collection of printable resources provide basic information about Ontario housing law, human rights in rental housing, and renters' rights when facing eviction.







### **Property Standards**

• Phone: 311

# Rental Housing Enforcement Unit

Phone: 416-585-7214

### **Canadian Centre for Housing Rights**

Website: <u>housingrightscanada.com</u>

Phone: 416-944-0087

### Local legal clinic and resources

Website: <u>legalaid.on.ca/legal-clinics</u>

# Keep in touch



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