

# Petition to Open

If you missed court or were late to court, your landlord probably got a Default Judgment against you, and you could be evicted within 21 days. To try to get a new hearing, you can file a Petition to Open.

1. **Go to 1339 Chestnut St, 10<sup>th</sup> Fl.**
2. **Ask to file a Petition to Open.** In the Petition you must state:
  - a. Why did you miss the hearing?
  - b. If it has been over 10 days since the hearing, why didn't you file a Petition to Open earlier?
  - c. What are your defenses to the landlord's claims? Be sure to include a defense to each claim the landlord made against you.
3. **Attach to your petition any proof that you have.** Be sure to white out any confidential information.
4. **Ask to file a Petition to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (IFP).** If the IFP is granted, you will not have to pay filing fees.
5. **Choose type of service.** If you choose private service, a person who is over 21 and not a family member must serve the court papers on the landlord.
6. **Contact the court the next day.** Call 215-686-7989. If your request for a petition hearing is granted, you will have to return to 1339 Chestnut St, 10<sup>th</sup> floor to schedule the hearing. You will have to pay a service fee unless you chose private service.

