







Philly Tenant Resource Guide

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
PHILADELPHIA EVICTION PREVENTION PROJECT





PHILLY TENANT RESOURCE GUIDE

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**Brought to you by the
Philadelphia Eviction
Prevention Project
May 2018**

Clarifi
Community Legal Services
Legal Clinic for the Disabled
SeniorLAW Center
Tenant Union Representative Network
Philadelphia VIP

**All of the information provided in this
guidebook, as well as additional
resources and sample letters, is
available at www.phillytenant.org.**

HOUSING



WHERE CAN I GO FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER?

Monday-Friday, 7am-3pm

Single Women & Families

Apple Tree Family Center
1430 Cherry St (near Cherry and 15th)
215-686-7150, 7151, 7152, or 7153

Single Men

Roosevelt Darby Center
802 N Broad St (near Broad & Fairmount)
215-685-3700

After 3pm and Weekends

For Families

The Red Shield
715 N Broad St (near Broad & Fairmount)
215-787-2887

For Single Women

House of Passage Kirkbride Center
111 N 48th St (near 48th & Haverford)
215-471-2017 or 267-713-7778

For Single Men

Station House
2601 N Broad St (near Broad & Lehigh)
215-225-9232

Homeless Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984

Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline at 866-723-3014

HOUSING



WHERE CAN I GO FOR RENT OR SECURITY DEPOSIT ASSISTANCE?

Office of Homeless Services (OHS)

- **1430 Cherry Street** (Center City)
Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm
- **Low-income tenants only.**
Assistance ranges from \$0 - \$1500
- **Call 215-686-7177** to see if they have funds.

Philadelphia County Assistance Office (CAO)

- **801 Market Street**
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
215-560-1976
- **Very low-income tenants only.**
Assistance ranges from \$0 - \$400

What should I bring?

- Photo ID for all household members age 18 and over
- Social Security cards and Birth Certificates for all household members
- Proof of Income
 - Pay stubs (for last thirty days)
 - Employment letter (hrs, pay date(s), wages/salary)
 - Award Letter from Social Security office
 - Any other documentation of income
- Lease Agreement
- Eviction Notice and/or Court Documents

What should I get from my landlord?

- Rental License also called a Housing Inspection License
- W-9 signed by landlord
- Letter with current balance owed signed and dated by landlord

HOUSING



HOW DO I GET MY LANDLORD TO MAKE REPAIRS?

Document the repair issues.

- Make a repair request in writing.
- Take Pictures.
- Get witnesses.

Bring attention to the repair issues.

- Request an Inspection**
 - **Licenses & Inspections.** Call 311.
 - **PHA Section 8 Inspection.** Call 215-684-3860.
- File a Fair Housing Commission Complaint.**
 - Call 215-686-4670 or go to 601 Walnut St, Ste 300 South
- Withhold rent.** For serious repair issues only.
 - **Send rent withholding letter to landlord.**
 - **Escrow your rent.** Open a bank account to deposit your rent or keep the rent in a money order.
- Repair & deduct.**
 - **Contact a repair person** and ask for an estimate for the cost of repair.
 - **Send a letter to landlord** with a copy of the estimate.
 - **Hire the repair person** if the landlord does not complete the repairs in a reasonable amount of time. Keep the invoice and receipt.

Visit www.PhillyTenant.org for more information and sample letters.

HOUSING



HOW DO I GET MY SECURITY DEPOSIT BACK?

You can only request your full security deposit after you move.

- **Before you move out**
 - Send landlord a letter with the date that you are moving. Keep a copy.
 - Leave the unit as clean as possible.
 - Take pictures of each room.
 - Do a walkthrough, if possible.
- **After you move out**
 - Return the keys in person or by certified mail.
 - Send landlord a Security Deposit Request Letter. Keep a copy.
 - Your landlord has 30 days to respond to your request in writing.
 - If you disagree with your landlord's response, you can sue for your security deposit.
 - If your landlord does not respond at all, you can sue for double your security deposit.

HOW DO I SUE FOR MY SECURITY DEPOSIT?

Be careful! Before you sue your landlord, be sure that you do not owe for rent or damages greater than your security deposit. Here is the process:

- **Go to Municipal Court at 1339 Chestnut Street, 10th floor**
- **Ask to File a Small Claims Complaint.** State how much money you are claiming. Include your lease and letters.
- **Ask to File a Petition to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (IFP).** If the IFP is granted, you will not have to pay filing fees.
- **Choose type of service.** Pay a service fee or choose private service, which means a person who is over 21 and not a family member must serve the court papers on the landlord.

HOUSING



HOW DO I APPLY FOR SUBSIDIZED HOUSING?

What are the main types of subsidized housing?

1. HUD Project-Based Housing
2. Low Income Housing Tax Credit Housing
3. Public Housing
4. Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher

How can I apply for HUD Project-Based or Low Income Housing Tax Credit Housing?

- Go to www.PAHousingSearch.com and select your county.
- Call each one or go in person to see if they are accepting applications.
- Submit an application and follow up at least once per year.

How can I apply for Public Housing?

- Go to Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) Admissions at 712 N 16th St (near 16th and Fairmount Ave) or call 215-684-4000.
- The waitlist for conventional PHA public housing is **closed**.
- The waitlist for PHA public housing for seniors and people with disabilities is **open**.
- The waitlists for non-PHA public housing are **open**.

How can I apply for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher?

- The waitlist for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program is **closed**. The waitlist was open for 3 weeks in the March 2010 and has not been open since.

HOUSING



WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT DISCRIMINATION?

In matters related to housing, it is illegal in Philadelphia to discriminate on the basis of any of these categories:

Age, Ancestry, Color, Disability, Domestic or Sexual Violence Victim Status, Ethnicity, Familial Status, Gender Identity, Marital Status, National Origin, Race, Religion, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Source of Income

If you believe someone has discriminated against you in a matter related to housing, you can make a complaint.

Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations

601 Walnut St, Suite 300 South
215-686-4670

www.phila.gov/humanrelations

Fair Housing Commission

601 Walnut St, Suite 300 South
215-686-4670

www.phila.gov/fairhousingcommission

Fair Housing Rights Center

444 N 3rd St, Suite 110
215-625-0700

www.fairhousingrights.org

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

110 N 8th St, Suite 501
215-560-2496

www.phrc.pa.gov

HUD Discrimination Hotline

1-888-799-2085

EVICTION



WHAT IS THE EVICTION PROCESS?

1. Eviction Notice

You may receive an eviction notice telling you when your landlord wants you to move out. You do not have to move out by that date. Your landlord must take you to court in order to evict you.

2. Court Complaint

If you do not move out, the landlord must file an Eviction Complaint against you in Municipal Court to evict you. The Complaint should state the reason your landlord is evicting you and the date/time of the court hearing. The Complaint should be sent to you by mail, attached to your door or hand delivered.

3. Hearing

Eviction hearings are in Municipal Court at **1339 Chestnut St, 6th Floor**. You must arrive on time to court, or you will likely lose. At the hearing you can sign an agreement or speak to the judge.

4. Appeal

If you lose at the hearing, you will have 10 calendar days to file an appeal in the Court of Common Pleas, City Hall, Room 296. The appeal stops an eviction from taking place until the court rules on the case, as long as you pay ongoing rent to the court.

5. Eviction

If you lose in court and do not appeal or break your agreement, your landlord can legally evict you. Your landlord must file eviction papers with the court (writ of possession and alias writ of possession). The landlord tenant officer can change your locks 21 days after the judgment.

EVICITION



WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO EVICTION COURT?

Any documents that relate to the reason your landlord is trying to evict you. Example: lease, rent receipts, utility bills, photos, letters or texts to or from the landlord.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS IN EVICTION COURT?

1. Ask for a continuance.

- You can get the hearing postponed if you need an interpreter.
- You can ask for the hearing to be postponed to get a lawyer, but the landlord may object.

OR

2. Have a hearing in front of a judge.

- You have the right to have a hearing in front of a judge instead of signing an agreement.
- You can present your evidence and defenses to the judge.
- If you lose, you must appeal within 10 days of the judgment if you want to stop the eviction.

OR

3. Sign a Judgment by Agreement.

- Do not sign an agreement unless you agree and can keep it.
- If you sign an agreement, it is final. You cannot appeal.
- If you break the agreement, the landlord can evict you.

EVICTION



HOW DO I GET LEGAL HELP?

Call (267) 443-2500 for Tenant Legal Aid Referral Line.

For free legal advice & representation for low-income tenants.

- Live housing counselor - 11am-7pm
- Weekend call backs for emergencies.
- Referrals to:
 - Tenant Union Representative Network
 - SeniorLAW Center
 - AIDS Law Project
 - Legal Clinic for the Disabled
 - Community Legal Services

Walk-In at one of the following locations:

Community Legal Services – *Advice, Referral & Representation*

1424 Chestnut St
Monday-Thursday, 9am to 12pm

Landlord/Tenant Legal Help Center – *Advice, Referral & Representation*

1339 Chestnut Street, 10th floor
Monday-Thursday, 9:30am to 2pm

SeniorLAW Center – *Walk-in for emergencies only, Age 60+*

2 Penn Center, 1500 JFK Blvd, Suite 1501
Tuesday & Thursday, 9am to 12pm

Get Help from a Paid Lawyer.

Philadelphia Bar Association - Lawyer Referral and Information Services

(215) 238-6333

<https://iris.philadelphiabar.org>

Get Other Help and Information.

Tenant Union Representative Network – *Daily tenants' rights workshops*

(215) 940-3900

www.ourturn.net

UTILITIES



UTILITY COMPANIES

Gas

Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW)

CRP program can help with gas bills

Emergency 215-235-1212; Non-emergency 215-235-1000

www.pgworks.com

Electric

Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO)

CAP rate program can help with electric bills

Non-emergency 800-494-4000; Assistance Programs 800-774-7040

www.peco.com

Water

Water Revenue Bureau (WRB)

TAP program can help with water bills

Emergency 215-685-6300; Non-emergency 215-686-6880

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Utility Emergency Services Fund (UESF)

215-972-5170

www.uesfacts.org/our-programs/utility-grant-program

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging Emergency Fund

215-765-9040

www.pcacares.org/service_provider/pca-emergency-fund

Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Grants to help pay for heating bills from November through March.

215-560-1583

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/heatingassistanceliheap

UTILITY COMPLAINTS

Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC)

PA residents can file complaints against electric and gas utilities.

1-800-692-7380

www.puc.state.pa.us

FOOD



WHERE CAN I FIND FOOD PANTRIES AND SOUP KITCHENS?

Coalition Against Hunger

215-430-0556

www.hungercoalition.org/food-pantries

WhyHunger

1-800-548-6479

Philabundance

www.philabundance.org/find-food

HOW DO I APPLY FOR SNAP/FOOD STAMPS?

Apply by phone

BenePhilly 1-800-236-2194

Coalition Against Hunger 215-430-0556

Apply in person

Call 215-560-7226 to find the County Assistance Office nearest you.

Apply online

www.compass.state.pa.us

HEALTH



WHERE CAN I GET HEALTH INSURANCE?

Medical Assistance (Medicaid)

Apply by phone

BenePhilly at 1-800-236-2194

Consumer Service Center at 866-550-4355

Apply online

www.compass.state.pa.us

Private Health Insurance

Apply by phone

Pennsylvania Health Access Network

877-570-3642

Apply online

www.Healthcare.gov

Children's Health Insurance

Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)

215-563-5848

<https://www.pccy.org/>

HOW DO I FIND A DOCTOR?

**Contact your health insurance provider or go to a
Community Health Center.**

PA Association of Community Health Centers

866-944-2273

www.pachc.org/PA-Health-Centers/Find-a-Health-Center

City Health Centers

311 or 215-685-6769

beta.phila.gov/services/mental-physical-health/city-health-centers

HEALTH



HOW DO I GET HELP WITH MENTAL HEALTH?

Emergency Response

Call 911 or contact the Mental Health Delegate at 215-685-6440

Crisis/Suicide Counseling

215-686-4420 or 800-273-8255

Crisis Response Centers

Center City Pennsylvania Hospital - 245 S 8th St (8th & Locust St)
215-829-5249

West Mercy Hospital - 501 S 54th St (54th & Cedar Ave)
215-748-9525

North Episcopal Hospital – 100 E Lehigh St (Lehigh & A St)
215-707-2577

Northwest Germantown Community Health Services – 1 Penn Blvd
(Olney & Wister St)
215-951-8300

Northeast Friends Hospital – 4641 Roosevelt Blvd
215-831-2600

Children Only Children’s Crisis Response Center
3300 Henry Ave (Henry & Roosevelt Blvd)
Two Building, 3rd Floor
215-878-2600

Outpatient Services

Contact your health insurance provider. If you have Medical Assistance (Medicaid), contact Community Behavioral Health at 888-545-2600.

HEALTH



HOW DO I GET HELP WITH ADDICTION?

Inpatient Services

Contact your health insurance provider. If you have Medical Assistance (Medicaid), contact Community Behavioral Health 888-545-2600.

Additional Resources

Office of Addiction Services	215-685-5403
Alcoholics Anonymous	215-923-7900
Narcotics Anonymous	215-440-8400
Problem Gamblers Helpline	800-848-1880
Prevention Point Syringe Exchange	215-634-5272

HOW DO I REPORT NEGLECT OR ABUSE?

Child Protective Services

Report abuse or neglect of a child age 0-17
215-683-6100 or 800-923-0313

Adult Protective Services

Report abuse or neglect of an adult with a disability age 18-59
800-490-8505

Older Adult Protective Services

Report abuse or neglect of an adult age 60 and up
215-765-9040

WORK



WHERE CAN I GET HELP WITH EMPLOYMENT?

CareerLink

1-833-750-JOBS (5627)

www.pacareerlinkphl.org/events

Philadelphia Unemployment Project (PUP)

215-557-0822

www.philaup.org

Urban League Career Center

215-985-3220

www.urbanleaguephila.org/what-we-do/career-services

Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians

9 week job orientation for immigrants

<https://welcomingcenter.org>

WHERE CAN I GET SMALL BUSINESS HELP?

Office of Business Services

215-683-2100

www.phila.gov/commerce/businessSupport/Pages/default.aspx

Wharton Small Business Development Center

215-898-4861

<https://whartonsbdc.wharton.upenn.edu>

WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP WITH UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION?

PA Office of Unemployment Compensation

888-313-7284

www.uc.pa.gov

EXTRA HELP



WHERE CAN VETERANS GO FOR HELP?

Veterans Multi Service Center

Including the Perimeter and Women Veterans Center
213-217 N 4th St
215-923-2600
www.vmcenter.org

Impact Services Corporation

147 W Allegheny Ave
215-739-0243
www.impactservices.org

Project HOME

4133 Chestnut St
215-232-7272
www.projecthome.org

UESF Veterans Program

1608 Walnut St, Suite 600
215-814-6888
www.uesfacts.org

The Veterans Group

3209 Baring St
215-222-4379
www.theveteransgroup.org

WHERE CAN IMMIGRANTS GO FOR HELP?

HIAS Pennsylvania

2100 Arch St
215-832-0900
www.hiaspa.org

Nationalities Service Center

1216 Arch St, 4th Floor
215-893-8400
www.nscphila.org

Esperanza

4261 N 5th St
215-324-0746
www.esperanza.us/eils

EXTRA HELP



WHERE CAN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GO FOR HELP?

Disability Rights PA

1315 Walnut St, Suite 500

215-238-8070

www.disabilityrightspa.org

Mental Health Partnerships

1211 Chestnut St, Suite 1100

215-751-1800

www.mentalhealthpartnerships.org

Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health

215-685-6440

www.dbhids.org

Mayor's Office on People with Disabilities

215-686-2798

WHERE CAN SENIORS GO FOR HELP?

Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly

800-356-3606

www.carie.org

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

215-765-9040

www.pcacares.org

Mayor's Commission on Services to the Aging

215-686-8450

Elder Justice Resource Center

(215) 686-7027, (215) 686-7028, (215) 686-7029

<https://www.courts.phila.gov/ejc/>

EXTRA HELP



WHERE CAN PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ GO FOR HELP?

Mazzoni Center

1348 Bainbridge St

215-563-0652

www.mazzonicenter.org

Trans Equity Project (TIP)

149 W Susquehanna Ave

267-457-3912 or 866-222-3871

Galaei

149 W Susquehanna Ave

267-457-3912

www.galaei.org

Attic Youth Center (Ages 14-23)

255 S. 16th Street

215-545-4331

www.atticyouthcenter.org

William Way House

1315 Spruce St

215-732-2220

www.waygay.org

WHERE CAN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE GO FOR HELP?

Women Against Abuse Domestic Violence Hotline

866-723-3014

www.womenagainstabuse.org

Women Organized Against Rape

215-985-3333

www.woar.org