

CAN MY LANDLORD JUST KICK ME OUT?

NO. A landlord is not permitted to kick you out, change your locks, shut off your utilities, or set your property out without a court order signed by a judge. Only a court can make you move. A landlord cannot even threaten to do these things to try to get you to move. If your landlord tries to do any of these things or does them, you should consult an attorney IMMEDIATELY. There are legal steps you can take to stop your landlord from putting you out without a court order.

If your landlord tries to evict you by any of the above self-help methods, call your local law enforcement. Also call a lawyer. You should also keep a record of any damages you may have. For example, if your landlord turns off your water, how much water did you have to buy? How far did you have to travel to take a shower? Keep track of any money out of your pocket. You may be able to recover money from your landlord if he or she tries to put you out.

If your landlord threatens to put you out or shut off a utility, show him or her this handout. If your landlord gives you a notice to leave, you do not have to leave. Only a court can make you move. Without a court order, your landlord is not permitted to do anything to try to force you to move out. If your landlord tries to force you out by using illegal means, you should contact an attorney immediately. If you are a senior or low income, call 1-866 LAW OHIO.