Renting your first home?

Do your research!
- Always do a detailed walk through to inspect the condition of the home before deciding to rent it. Check all faucets, light switches, appliances, etc.
- Research the landlord. You can search their name on Google for any general information; your county’s auditor’s website to see how many properties they own; and the local municipal court or county court docket for past evictions and other civil or criminal cases.
- If the landlord is a company, search Google for reviews from past tenants.

Get everything in writing.
- Whether your lease is for a year or a month, you should always ask for a written lease agreement.
- Read through your lease agreement before signing, and make sure everything you and the landlord have agreed to is included in the written agreement.
- If your landlord doesn't want a written agreement, that’s probably a red flag. If you choose to go forward without a written lease agreement, do your best to follow up on verbal agreements by requesting confirmation of the agreement through e-mail or text message so you have some evidence of the agreement.

Moving in to your new home.
- Before you move your stuff in, do another walk through of the home to inspect it.
- If there are any issues at all with the home, make sure you take a photos that demonstrate they were there before you took possession of the home.
- Send your landlord written notice of any issues with the home, however minor, that existed before you moved in.

What do I do if I need help?
If you need help, you can call SEOLS. SEOLS can help people who have low incomes, veterans, seniors, and others.

This information is provided by Southeastern Ohio Legal Services based on current Landlord-Tenant laws, which are always subject to change.

FOR FREE HELP CONTACT:
Southeastern Ohio Legal Services
Call: (740) 594-3558 or Visit: www.seols.org/get-help