

ARE YOU A SUBURBAN RENTER IN COOK COUNTY? YOU HAVE NEW RIGHTS!



YOUR LOCKOUT PROTECTIONS

The **Cook County Residential Tenant Landlord Ordinance (RTLO)** gives rights and protections to tenants in the Cook County suburbs (outside of Evanston and Mount Prospect, which have their own tenant-landlord ordinances).

Under the RTLO, as of **January 28, 2021**, it is illegal for your landlord to lock you out.

WHAT IS A LOCKOUT?

Your landlord can NOT:



Change, remove, or add locks



Remove or block doors or windows



Cut off utility services like electricity, gas, heat, & water



Remove your appliances & fixtures



Remove your personal property



Threats & violence against you or your property are also illegal.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE LOCKED OUT?

- Call your local police department or 911



Make sure you have your landlord's name & phone number and show proof you live there (lease, rent receipts, ID, bills).

What you might say: *Hi, my name is ____. On [DATE/TIME], my landlord illegally locked me out of [ADDRESS] by [EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED]. Under the Cook County Residential Tenant Landlord Ordinance, no landlord can evict a tenant without a court order. Please tell my landlord that his/her conduct is illegal and help me get back into my home.*

- Call your local Building Department or township
- Call an attorney or housing advocate

WHAT ARE YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS?

You can sue your landlord to get into your unit and get 2 months rent.



QUESTIONS? NEED LEGAL HELP?

QUICK ADVICE

MTO Tenants' Rights Hotline: (773) 292-4988

tenants-rights.org

Metropolitan Tenants Organization connects you to a counselor who can give advice or referrals.

Rentervention.com

This online resource helps Chicago and Cook County tenants learn about renter rights and navigate common housing problems.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

CARPLS: (312) 738-9200

carpls.org

The Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services operates a free telephone hotline to talk directly with attorneys.

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Department: (312) 948-6821

catholiccharities.net/GetHelp/OurServices/LegalServices.aspx

CCLA's services are offered in both English and Spanish, regardless of a person's citizenship status or religious affiliation.

Illinois Legal Aid Online: illinoislegalaid.org/get-legal-help

Apply online for legal assistance and learn about your renter rights.

Legal Aid Chicago: (312) 341-1070

legalaidchicago.org

Services are free for qualifying individuals and families at or below 150% of the federal poverty line.

Moran Center for Youth Advocacy: (847) 492-1410

moran-center.org

Services are free for families who live in School District 65 in Evanston.

North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic: (847) 737-4042

nslegalaid.org

Services are free for North Suburban Cook County tenants at or below 250% of the federal poverty line.

For more information about the Cook County RTLO, visit: housingactionil.org/RTLO

