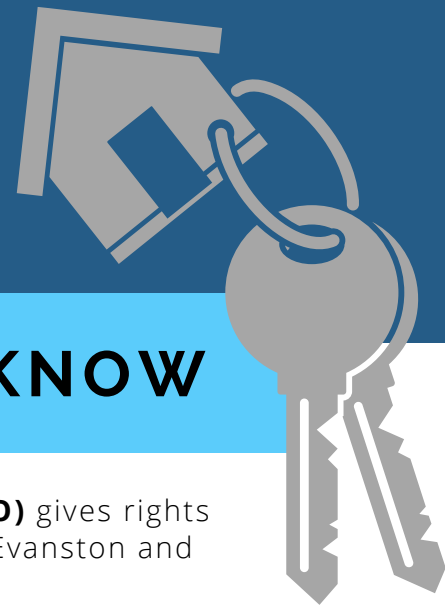


# ARE YOU A SUBURBAN RENTER IN COOK COUNTY? YOU HAVE NEW RIGHTS!



## RTLO: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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

**As of June 1, 2021:**

### LANDLORDS CANNOT:



#### **LOCK YOU OUT WITHOUT A COURT ORDER** - *effective as of January 28, 2021*

A lockout is when a landlord changes or removes locks, removes doors/windows, eliminates essential services such as electricity or other utilities, or threatens any of those actions.



#### **CHARGE REALLY HIGH LATE RENT FEES, MOVE-IN FEES, OR SECURITY DEPOSITS**

Late fees are capped at \$10 for the first \$1,000. It must be clear what move-in fees cover. Security deposits cannot be more than 1.5 times the monthly rent amount and must be returned to you within 30 days after the lease ends.

### LANDLORDS MUST:



#### **MAKE REPAIRS & PROVIDE ESSENTIAL UTILITIES**

Your landlord must maintain the building or property and make repairs within 14 days. Your landlord must also provide essential utilities such as heat, running hot water, electricity, gas, and plumbing.



#### **GIVE 2 DAYS' NOTICE BEFORE ENTERING YOUR UNIT**

Unless there is an emergency or repairs that require immediate access.



#### **GIVE 60 DAYS' NOTICE WHEN NOT RENEWING YOUR LEASE**

### IS YOUR UNIT COVERED?

**Almost all rental units are included** (including mobile homes & subsidized units). There are some exceptions, including:

- Units in owner-occupied buildings with 6 or fewer units
- A single family home or condominium if:
  - The owner is only renting that one rental property and
  - The owner or an immediate family member has lived in the home within the year



# 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 renters 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*

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](http://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 renters at or below 250% of the federal poverty line.

For more information about the Cook County RTLO, visit: **[housingactionil.org/RTLO](http://housingactionil.org/RTLO)**

