

## **Can My Landlord Just Kick Me Out?**

### **What should I do if a landlord threatens to kick me out without getting a court order?**

A landlord cannot threaten to kick you out, change your locks, shut off your utilities, or set your property out to try to get you to move. If your landlord tries to do any of these things, you should talk to an attorney immediately. There are legal steps you can take to stop your landlord from putting you out without a court order.

You should also show this handout to your landlord.

### **What should I do if my landlord has started to kick me out?**

If your landlord tries to evict you by kicking you out, changing your locks, shutting off a utility, or setting your property out, you should call local law enforcement and an attorney immediately.

You should keep track of any damages you may have. For example, if your landlord turns off your water, keep receipts for any water you had to buy and any travelling you had to make 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.

### **My landlord gave me a notice to leave. What should I do?**

If your landlord gives you a notice to leave, you do not have to leave by the date on the notice. Only a court can make you move.

Without a court order, your landlord cannot do anything to try to force you to move out. If your landlord tries to force you to move out by telling you to leave, changing the locks, shutting off your utilities, or setting your property out, you should call local law enforcement and an attorney immediately.

### **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.

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**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: 844-302-1800 or "Request Help On-line" at <http://www.seols.org>