

Dear Lawrence Resident:

Are you worried about eviction or paying rent? Help is available no matter your background or immigration status.

ARE YOU BEHIND ON RENT? HAVE YOU BEEN THREATENED WITH EVICTION?

\$\$\$ WHERE CAN I GET FINANCIAL HELP? \$\$\$

- Undocumented? Help is available, no matter your immigration status.
- **Small landlords/homeowners** are also eligible for RAFT assistance.
- **To Apply for RAFT** go to this website (<https://bit.ly/37wHwle>);
- **Or contact Greater Lawrence Community Action Council (GLCAC)** (<https://www.glcac.org/>): for RAFT or other Rental Assistance contact at 978-620-4993 or esgcovid@glcac.org
- Or contact **Community Teamwork, Inc.** (<https://www.commteam.org/>): To apply, contact CTI (978) 459-0551, (800) 698-0551, CovidResponseCTI@commteam.org,
- Other rental, utility, or financial assistance may be available from:
 - **Catholic Charities** (<https://www.ccab.org/>): (781) 593-2312
 - **We Are Lawrence** (<https://www.wearelawrence.org/>): (978) 974-7001

If you get a “notice to quit”/ “notice to vacate”/ 14 or 30 day notice from your landlord

- ✓ You do NOT have to move out. Call one of the groups listed below if you get a notice that says you have to *leave*.

If you get a summons to go to court:

- ✓ You do NOT have to move out. You have legal rights. Call for help right away.

FILE YOUR ANSWER, DISCOVERY AND JURY REQUEST ON TIME!

- ✓ THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO is to fill out the “Answer” and “Discovery” forms and file them with the court before the deadline. The *Answer* is where you can tell your side of the story and explain why it would be unfair to evict you. The *Discovery* allows you to get information that might help you prove your defenses to eviction.
- ✓ Note: the deadline for these forms is usually several days or sometimes over a week before your court date. Try to get help filling out these forms from legal aid or a community group (contact info below).
- ✓ If you need to file the forms on your own or with help of a community group, social worker, etc. use this easy online tool called “MADE” (<https://www.gbls.org/MADE>).

WHERE CAN I GET HELP WITH MY COURT CASE?

Northeast Legal Aid offers free assistance. You can call the intake line at 1-800-336-2262 or the Lawrence housing paralegal directly at (781) 254-2831. To apply for help online, click [here](https://www.northeastlegalaid.org/) (<https://www.northeastlegalaid.org/>) or email LawyerForDay@nla-ma.org.

Lawrence Community Works offers community assistance for those fighting eviction through its Housing Stabilization Center. You can call (978) 685-3115, email info@lawrencecommunityworks.org, or visit their [website](https://www.lawrencecommunityworks.org/site/) (<https://www.lawrencecommunityworks.org/site/>).

What if my landlord offers me an agreement outside of court or in court mediation? 

It is important to get legal advice **before** signing an agreement with your landlord or their attorney. If you are in Housing Court, ask the court to connect you with the **Lawyer for a Day Program** to represent you in mediation.

- Instead of a final agreement, it is best to continue your case with each side agreeing to do things to try to resolve the issues so that both sides can still present their case if they end up unable to stick to the agreement
- Signing an *Agreement for Judgment* or any *Move-Out Agreement* is risky for tenants – insist on getting legal advice before you sign anything! If you sign an agreement that says you agree to move out by a certain date, **you may not be able to ask the court for more time if you can’t find a new place in time.**
- Don’t feel pressured to sign anything - you have the right to see a judge. Only a judge can evict you.

What if my landlord is trying to force me to leave outside of the court process?

- This is illegal. Click [here](https://bit.ly/31yVjUy) (<https://bit.ly/31yVjUy>) to ask the court for a restraining order to stop your landlord. You can also report your landlord to the Attorney General’s Office at (617) 727-8400 or call Legal Aid.