

Your Rights & Duties as a Tenant:

What the Law Says Your Landlord Cannot Do



A landlord cannot take away your rights, even if you are behind in your rent.

Your landlord cannot:

- Increase your rent, decrease your services, or threaten to evict you if you complain to the landlord or the city about a code violation or violation of the landlord's duties.
- Increase your rent, decrease your services, or threaten to evict you if you form or join a tenant group.
- Shut off your utilities, change the locks on your apartment, or threaten to have any of these things done to make you move out of your apartment.
- Enter your apartment or repeatedly demand to enter without a good reason and without giving you prior notice, unless there is an emergency. **You are the only one who can let someone in your apartment.**
- Stop you from having guests who have been given permission by you to visit.

If your landlord ignores the law and does any of the things listed, see a lawyer right away. You have the right to sue your landlord for your damages, and possibly attorney fees. Some of these actions are also considered crimes, such as burglary (for entering without permission) and theft (if your property is removed).

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