

SURVIVAL SKILLS

Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Renter

Are you renting? If so, you have rights based on state and federal laws. You also have responsibilities.

Your rights

- No one can refuse to rent to you or charge you higher rent because of your race, color, religion, age, sex, family status, national origin or disability.
- If there are enough bedrooms, the landlord may not refuse to rent to you because you have children. A landlord may not increase your rent

because you have children or because another family member moves in.

- You can not be evicted without a court order from a judge.
- You have the right to decent, safe and sanitary living conditions. A landlord must meet health and safety codes.
- A landlord may not evict you or harass you because you complain about conditions.
- A landlord must return your security deposit within a reasonable time (usually 30 days after you move) except to cover damages or rent owed.

Your responsibilities

- You must pay your rent on time.
- You must not damage the property.
 - You must keep the property clean.
 - You must not be a nuisance to your neighbors.
- You must read and understand your lease before you sign.

Based on information from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ■



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