

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL HEALEY ISSUES ADVISORY TO INFORM TENANTS OF THEIR RIGHTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

### **EVICCTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS MUST BE COURT ORDERED.**

You do not need to leave just because your landlord tells you to leave or gives you a notice to quit. If your landlord files in court, you will receive a summons from the court and you are not required to leave until a court order is issued.

### **A LANDLORD CAN'T THROW YOU OUT WITHOUT A COURT ORDER.**

Your landlord cannot move your belongings out of your apartment, change your locks, shut off your utilities, or interfere with your use of the unit without permission from the court.

If your landlord has done or threatens to do any of the above, you can call the Attorney General's Office at (617) 727-8400.

### **YOU CAN APPLY FOR FINANCIAL HELP.**

You can apply for [Residential Assistance for Families in Transition \(RAFT\)](#) and [Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance \(ERMA\)](#) on the same form.

You cannot be evicted while a rental assistance application is pending. Contact the Attorney General's Office at (617) 727-8400 if you need help filling out a rental assistance application form or online at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-consumer-complaint>.

### **YOUR LANDLORD CAN'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST YOU FOR RECEIVING FINANCIAL HELP.**

To report discrimination, call the Civil Rights Division at (617) 963-2917 or file a civil rights complaint at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-consumer-complaint>

### **IF YOU HAVE A COURT DATE FOR AN EVICTON HEARING.**

You also have a right to ask to stay in your home until March 31, 2021 under the [Centers for Disease Prevention and Control \(CDC\) eviction moratorium](#).

### **LEGAL ASSISTANT SERVICES IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD A LAWYER:**

- [Northeast Legal Aid](#)
- [Covid Eviction Legal Help Project](#)
- There are volunteer lawyers available in Housing Court to help you through the "Lawyer for the Day" program.

To view the Attorney General's advisory in Spanish, click [here](#).