

LANDLORD/TENANT ISSUES DURING COVID-19

COVID-19 has forced numerous societal changes, many of which have raised questions about housing stability. Normal eviction procedures have changed, and additional resources may be available to those affected by the pandemic. Below is an outline of answers to questions related to housing instability in this uncertain time:

- The Franklin County Municipal Court will not hold eviction hearings from March 16 until at least May 11.
- If you have a pending eviction case, the court will send you a new court date in the mail. You can also check online at fcmcclerk.com
- If your landlord files a new eviction case against you during this time, the court will schedule it for a court date eight weeks from the day your landlord files it.
- The court will not set out tenants from their residence until May 11. Your landlord may not attempt to remove you without the court's assistance. If your landlord does attempt to remove you, either physically or by shutting off your utility services, you should call the police non-emergency line at 614-645-4545 and the Legal Aid Society of Columbus at 614-241-2001.
- While eviction hearings are suspended, you still have an obligation to pay rent as normal. If you are not able to keep up with rent payments, you should talk to your landlord and attempt to reach an agreement in writing. If you need assistance with your rent, you can apply for up to \$1,500.00 from PRC through Franklin County Job & Family Services by emailing an application to FRANKLIN-CDJFS-Verifications@jfs.ohio.gov.
- Unemployment Insurance benefits have been expanded. The normal waiting period for such benefits has been waived in many cases. If you have lost work due to COVID-19, you can apply for benefits here: unemployment.ohio.gov
- If you have questions related to your specific situation and landlord/tenant law and would like to speak to an attorney, you can call the Legal Aid Society of Columbus at 614-241-2001.

The situation is rapidly changing and further announcements continue to come from the Statehouse. This information is accurate as of March 18, 2020, but more questions are likely to be answered as time passes.