

- 1. Are there any protections for tenants during the COVID-19 emergency?**
  - All protections against discrimination in housing apply during this health emergency. If you believe you have experienced discrimination in housing, call us at (651) 266-8966 or email us at [hrightscomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:hrightscomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us) to file a complaint.
  - Minnesota has placed a suspension on evictions and writs of recovery; this means that landlords cannot begin eviction proceedings during this period of emergency with the exception of evictions under Minn. Stat. 504B.171 Subd. 1 (criminal activity on the premises) and those where a tenant seriously endangers the safety of other residents.
  
- 2. I am unemployed or lost income because of COVID-19. Is there any financial assistance to help tenants pay rent?**
  - Congress passed a law to provide citizens and residents some financial help.
  - Minnesota has extended unemployment benefits during this period of emergency.
  - The City of Saint Paul has enacted the Saint Paul Bridge Fund to help families with children impacted by COVID-19. To apply or for more information visit the City's website [www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov); the application deadline is April 19, 2020 at 5 p.m. If you have questions about the program call (651) 266-6565.
  
- 3. Can my landlord evict me if I can't pay rent?**
  - No. If you lost your job because of COVID-19, tell your landlord, ask if they will let you pay back rent when you get a new job or receive unemployment benefits. You should put in writing any agreement your landlord makes with you. You can use a letter or an e-mail to your landlord to document your agreement.
  - If you live in public or subsidized housing, or pay the rent with a Section 8 voucher, report the change in income immediately to the administrator of your voucher.
  - If you are able to continue to pay rent you should.
  
- 4. I have an eviction case pending already, what happens now?**
  - Under the Governor's Executive Order 20-14 evictions cannot be carried out unless your case falls under Minn. Stat. 540B.171 Subd. 1 (criminal activity on the premises) and those where a tenant seriously endangers the safety of other residents.
  
- 5. What happens if my lease expires at the end of the month?**
  - If you are unable to move during this period of emergency inform your landlord in writing. Under the Governor's Executive Order #20-14, you can remain in your apartment during this period of emergency.

- 6. My landlord won't renew my lease or wants to evict me because I am from another country severely impacted by COVID-19?**

  - A landlord cannot evict you or treat you differently simply because you are from another country severely impacted by COVID-19.
  - Fair housing laws protect people from discrimination based on national origin.
  - If this happens to you, call us at (651) 266-8966 or email us at [hrightscomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:hrightscomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us)
  
- 7. Can my landlord evict me because I have COVID-19?**

  - No. If your landlord has sent you a notice of eviction and you believe it's because of COVID-19, this may be discrimination.
  - If this happens to you, call us at (651) 266-8966 or email us at [hrightscomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:hrightscomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us)
  
- 8. Can my landlord shut off my utilities?**

  - No. The Governor has asked and local utility companies have agreed to suspend disconnections during this period of emergency.
  - If your service has been disconnected, please contact your utility company to have your service reconnected.
  
- 9. I am being harassed by my neighbors or staff because they think I have COVID-19. What can I do?**

  - In writing tell your landlord that you are being harassed. Ask the landlord to tell the tenants or staff to stop harassing you.
  - The landlord should take measures to address the issues.
  - If your landlord does not take action and the harassment continues, call us at (651) 266-8966 or email us at [hrightscomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:hrightscomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us)
  
- 10. My landlord sent an e-mail requiring everyone to report to the office if tenants are showing symptoms of COVID-19. Can my landlord do that?**

  - As a tenant you are not required to discuss your medical conditions with your landlord.
  
- 11. My kids are at home all day because of COVID-19 and my neighbors have complained to the landlord that my kids are making too much noise. Can my landlord evict me because my neighbors complained?**

  - Fair housing laws prohibit discrimination against families with children.

- If the noise is unreasonable or occurring late into the night, then it could constitute a lease violation if your lease prohibits loud noises after a certain time at night.

**12. I am experiencing domestic partner violence or I am quarantined with an abusive partner. How can I get help?**

- If you are experiencing domestic violence, or if you are the victim of sexual assault, please call 9-1-1.
- You may be able to break your lease and move.
- If you are in federally subsidized housing or have a voucher (Section 8), you may also have the right to break your lease and access other protections under the Violence Against Women Act, including an emergency transfer in some cases.

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