

**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 through May 4, 2020; 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.
- If you are being threatened with eviction during this period of emergency, you can submit a [complaint to the Minnesota Attorney General](#). When you submit the form, you can request that their office contact your landlord.

**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.
- For a list of other resources that may be available to you, please visit the [City's website](#).

**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, rent payments have not been forgiven.

**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.
- You should have received a notice from the court, you can also call the court's information line at (651) 266-8266 for more information on your case.

- 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, your utilities cannot be shut off unless it is necessary to repair or correct equipment or to protect the health and safety of tenants.
  - If your service has been disconnected, please contact your utility company to have your service reconnected.
  - If you are experiencing a problem regarding maintenance/repairs you can call the Department of Safety and Inspections at (651) 266-8989.
  
- 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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