



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A Preserving Affordable Housing Program Tenants' Fair Housing Rights During the COVID-19 Pandemic

If you have specific questions about your case, please contact Brooklyn A at (718) 487-2300 or info@bka.org or reach out directly to your advocate if you are a current client.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my tenant association stay active during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes. Tenant associations ought to stay active, even if meeting as a group is impossible. If you're part of a tenant association, you should reach out to the tenant leaders and/or organizers to get updates. It's possible, for example, to coordinate with a tenant association on a rent strike.

I have heard about rent strikes, what is that? Should I organize one in my building?

A rent strike occurs when tenants strategically withhold rent to compel the landlord to do something—like make repairs or offer an abatement (a rebate) on rent. It is perfectly legal to go on rent strike. During the recent pandemic, some tenants have gone on rent strike in solidarity with tenants who, for various reasons, cannot pay rent. Rent strikes, under the current circumstances, may force the landlord to offer some form of rent relief—like payment plans or a few months rent-free—to tenants. [Here is a handy guide to rent-strike information and resources.](#)

What do I do if I face discrimination during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Contact us (info above). You can alert the [fair housing authorities](#) on your own, but the process is easier with a lawyer. Additionally, keep any evidence you might have, like phone calls, texts, or emails.

I've heard there is an eviction moratorium, but can I bring my landlord to court?

Yes, but only for a specific set of reasons. If you are illegally locked out, recently evicted, or cannot live at home because of a vacate order, the housing court will hear a case against your landlord. Additionally, if you don't have heat, hot water, gas, or you have other serious repair concerns—“serious” is determined by the court itself—you can file a case against your landlord.

Call us about legal representation if any of the above situations apply to you.

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