



Renters Resource Guide



Tips to Put Renters in the Driver's Seat!

KNOW THE LAW:
FLORIDA STATUTE 83, PART II
 Order Florida's free
 Landlord-Tenant Brochure
 and/or Landlord-Tenant Law (Florida Statute)
<http://www.800helpfla.com/freeform.html>
 1-800-HELP-FLA

- **DON'T UNDERSTAND, DON'T SIGN**
 Never sign a lease agreement if you don't understand or agree to the terms.
- **AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION**
 Before you move in, do a walk-through with your landlord. Check off any damage and imperfections, and take pictures and/or video. Put the findings in writing, and make your landlord sign the document.
- **RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**
 Repeat the above procedure a week before you move out. Again keep a copy for your records.
- **PUT ALL REPAIR REQUESTS IN WRITING**
 Just in case you end up in court, record the date and time of each request.
- **USE CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT MAIL**
 For any and all correspondence to your landlord, always use certified return receipt mail. Make sure you allow time for mailing when there are mandatory requirements under the law or spelled out in your lease.
- **OBTAIN RENTER'S INSURANCE**
 The only way to protect your belongings is to have renter's insurance. It is a small price to pay in case a fire destroys your possessions or if you are burglarized.

Provided by:
Hillsborough County
Consumer Protection Agency
813-903-3430
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/consumerprotection

Who to Call for Help

Code Violations

813-274-6600 Hillsborough County Code Enforcement 10119 Windhorst Road Tampa, FL 33619	813-274-5545 City of Tampa Code Enforcement 2105 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, FL 33602
813-659-4200, x 4141 Plant City Code Enforcement 302 W. Reynolds Street Plant City, FL 33564 Fax: 813-659-4227	813-506-6680 City of Temple Terrace Code Compliance 11250 North 56th Street Temple Terrace, FL 33617 Fax: 813-506-6681

Legal Questions or Problems
 813-232-1343
 Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.
 829 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 2nd Floor
 Tampa, FL 33603

Complaints & Security Deposit Disputes
 813-903-3430
 Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Agency
 1101 East 139th Avenue
 Tampa, FL 33613

Eviction Proceedings & Disputes
 813-276-8100 x 4362
 Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court
 13th Judicial Circuit
 Edgecomb Courthouse
 800 E. Twiggs St., 1st Floor, Room 103
 Tampa, FL 33602

813-242-5200
 Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
 Court Process Section

Renter's Insurance
 1-800-342-2762
 Florida Department of Financial Services
 Statewide Consumer Helpline

Section 8
 City of Tampa Housing Authority
 813-253-0551



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