

Renters' Rights:

Apply for free legal aid online at MontanaLawHelp.org or call/text Kaia, YHDP Coordinator, at (406) 594-1971



As a renter, you have rights and responsibilities which protect you and your landlord from violating housing laws. It's the roof over your head, and you need to know how to take action when things don't seem fair.

Can I sign a rental agreement if I am under the age of 18?

Yes, but many landlords will not rent to you if you're under 18 because you can't legally be held to a contract. You may need a court order of emancipation to remedy that.

What do you do if you are served with eviction court papers in Montana?

1. Read the court paperwork and figure out your deadline to answer.
2. Contact MLSA. We can walk you through the basic process:
 - Download, print, or fill out online the free court forms found on MontanaLawHelp.org to file an answer to the lawsuit.
 - File the answer with the Clerk of Court and mail a copy to your landlord.
 - Attend all hearings and mediation (if ordered).

Common housing questions:

(each question is a link to information)

- [When can my landlord enter my rental?](#)
- [What steps can I take to get my landlord to make needed repairs?](#)
- [What can I do if I'm having issues with roommates or neighbors?](#)
- [When can my landlord raise the rent?](#)
- [What happens if I break my lease?](#)
- [What can I do if my landlord locks me out?](#)
- [How do I get my security deposit back?](#)
- [Are there ways to prove housing discrimination?](#)
- [What can I do about bed bugs?](#)

What housing protections exist for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking?

[Federal law](#) offers housing protections to survivors.

These protections include:

- Cannot be denied admission to federally-subsidized housing because of violence committed in the space
- Cannot be evicted or have assistance terminated

Learn more at MontanaLawHelp.org

Please contact MLSA for additional information and assistance.

Read or Listen to *Tricks To Improve Your Credit Score* for information on how to build good credit to get into the rental you want: NPR.org

Are the rules the same for all rentals?

No, there are different rules that apply to the following types of renters:

1. Renters who own their own mobile home and only rent the lot;
2. Renters who receive government assistance with their rent;
3. Renters in tribal communities.

If you have questions about your housing rights, contact MLSA.

How can MLSA help me?

MLSA provides FREE legal information, forms, advice, and representation to eligible clients.

MLSA's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinator can provide you with referrals to agencies in your community and link you with free civil legal assistance.

Have more questions about your legal rights? Visit:

MontanaLawHelp.org

