

# **NOTICE OF TENANT RIGHTS AND RESOURCES**

**PURSUANT TO CITY OF TAMPA ORDINANCE 2022-51, LANDLORDS AND OTHER LESSORS OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF TAMPA ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THIS NOTICE TO PERSONS APPLYING TO RENT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. THIS NOTICE MUST BE PROVIDED PRIOR TO A TENANT'S OCCUPATION OF A RENTAL UNIT.**

**THIS NOTICE PROVIDES A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RENTAL RIGHTS AND RELATED RESOURCES FOR TENANTS IN THE CITY OF TAMPA, BUT IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE BY EITHER THE CITY OR THE LANDLORD PROVIDING THIS NOTICE.**

**TENANTS HAVE RIGHTS.** Landlords have certain requirements and restrictions pursuant to Florida law, such as providing a clean and safe property by maintaining the major systems and the building structure.

**FLORIDA LAW REGARDING RIGHTS.** Tenants in Florida can have either a written or an oral lease agreement. It is recommended that tenants have a written lease agreement with the landlord in order to avoid misunderstandings. Prior to entering into a lease, tenants should review their lease and should be familiar with Florida's Landlord/Tenant Law in Florida Statutes, Chapter 83, Part II. The State of Florida provides a free brochure with an overview of Florida's Landlord/Tenant law that is available at [FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://FloridaConsumerHelp.com) or by calling **1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352)** or **1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832)** (en Espanol).

**ALL RESIDENTIAL RENTALS MUST BE FIT FOR HABITATION.** A rental unit must generally include plumbing and heating that is compliant with applicable codes, be reasonably free from pests and have fully-functioning and locking doors and windows, among other requirements. Structures in the City of Tampa must also meet all applicable building, housing, and health codes. If there is an issue with your unit for which you are not responsible in your lease, contact your landlord as set forth in your lease. If your landlord does not address the issue within a reasonable timeframe, you may be able to report it. Certain issues, such as lack of operable sanitary facilities or water or leaking roofs can be reported to **City of Tampa Neighborhood Enhancement** at **(813) 274-5545** or the **Florida Division of Hotels and Restaurants** at **(850) 487-1395**.

**DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION ARE ILLEGAL.** A landlord may not raise your rent or threaten to evict you because you reported a health or safety violation or filed a fair housing complaint. A landlord cannot treat you differently because of your race, nationality, disability, religion, or sexual orientation, or because you pay your rent with Section 8 vouchers or any other governmental assistance, among other criteria. If you feel you have been discriminated or retaliated against, you can contact **City Tampa Office of Human Rights** at **813-274-5869**.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE AN EVICTION AND OTHER UNLAWFUL ACTION.** A lease does not prevent you from challenging an eviction. If the landlord is violating the lease agreement, you can seek relief through the courts. If you cannot afford an attorney, you can contact **Bay Area Legal Services** at **(813)232-1343** to see if you are eligible for free legal assistance.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.** If you face eviction and/or homelessness, financial assistance may be available. You can contact **City of Tampa Housing and Community Development** at **813-274-7999** for information on programs that may provide assistance.

## RESOURCES

### **Code Enforcement/ Property Condition**

City of Tampa Neighborhood Enhancement  
(813)274-5545

Florida Department of Business and  
Professional Regulation/ Division of  
Hotels and Restaurants  
(850)487-1395

### **Housing Discrimination or Retaliation**

City of Tampa Office of Human Rights  
(813)274-5869

### **Legal Questions or Problems**

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.  
(813)232-1343

### **Section 8**

Tampa Housing Authority  
(813)341-9101

### **Housing & Rental Financial Assistance**

City of Tampa Housing and Community  
Development  
(813)274-7999

### **Eviction Proceedings and Disputes**

Hillsborough County Clerk of Circuit Court  
(813)276-8100 x 7807

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office  
(813)242-5200

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### **AFFIRMATION OF RECEIPT**

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_ (tenants),  
confirm that I/we have received a Notice of Tenant's Rights and Resources on  
\_\_\_\_\_ (date).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant Name (Printed)

This signature page should be retained by the landlord. Please provide a copy of this document to your tenant(s).