

## Resources



To file a complaint over conditions in an apartment or building with the City's Housing department, call 311, or file online at <https://portal.311.nyc.gov>



[www.JustFix.NYC](http://www.JustFix.NYC) has an online tool that helps you draft a letter to your Landlord. It even sends it out for you via certified mail.



If you'd like to do research on your Landlord, and go through your building's violations, go to: <https://whoownswhat.justfix.nyc>



To find out if your apartment is Rent Stabilized, and whether you are paying the legal rent, get your Rent History from the NY State Housing and Community Renewal Division.

**You can request it by texting "RENT HISTORY" to (855) 610-2450**

Or request it online through

<https://portal.hcr.ny.gov/app/ask>

If your building's Tenants' Association wants to sue your landlord or organize a rent strike, we can help you get free legal representation!

You can reach Catholic Migration Services for advice on individual or building-wide situations by calling (347) 472-3500, or emailing [organizers@catholicmigration.org](mailto:organizers@catholicmigration.org). If you received court papers or have an ongoing case, our attorneys might be able to assist you.



# CATHOLIC MIGRATION SERVICES

PROMOTING JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

## Organizing Assistance & Legal Services for Tenants



## Know Your Rights



You can only be evicted by a Marshal following a Judge's orders. Do not listen to threats from your Landlord, but do seek legal advice.



You have the right to a safe and well-maintained building, repairs in your apartment, and functioning appliances.



If you have a Rent Stabilized or a Rent Controlled apartment, you have the right to affordable rent increases, decided every year by the Rent Guidelines Board, and the right to renew your lease.



With the Right to Counsel, low-income tenants have the right to free legal representation in Housing Court for eviction cases.



If there are major violations to the Housing Maintenance Code in your building, or if you are being overcharged, you have the right to withhold rent and organize a rent strike.

## Organize



Getting your neighbors together to discuss common problems can give you insights into how to confront them more quickly and efficiently. Landlords tend to be more responsive to complaints when they come from groups.

**There's power in numbers!**



Form a Tenants' Association (T.A.) that can speak to the Landlord with one voice. Make sure everyone is taking on a bit of responsibility and that concerns are talked through.

## Actions a T.A. Can Take



You can start by having a 311 calling campaign, making complaints about conditions and getting an inspection to your building.



Write a letter to your landlord, to express your concerns and hold them accountable.




You can file petitions for a Rent Reduction, bring your landlord to court for repairs in a Housing Part (HP) action, and organize a Rent Strike.





If you know of neighbors going through hardship, it's important to talk with them about the rights and protections for tenants. Collective responses can be powerful in confronting individual hardship. We can help you organize a meeting in your building lobby or on Zoom.




We may be able to help you through this process. Reach out to the Tenant Organizers at Catholic Migration Services for assistance

 47-01 Queens Boulevard, Sunnyside, NY 11104

 (347) 472-3500

 organizers@catholicmigration.org

 www.catholicmigration.org