



# Renter's 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-HELPFLA

- **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](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/consumerprotection)

## Who To Call For Help

### Code Violations

(813) 274-6600 Hillsborough County Code Enforcement 10119 Windhorst Road Tampa, FL 33619-7827	(813) 274-5545 City of Tampa Code Enforcement 102 E. 7th Avenue Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 659-4200, X 4141 Plant City Code Enforcement 302 W. Reynolds Street Plant City, FL 33563 Fax: (813) 659-4227	(813) 989-7040 Temple Terrace Code Enforcement 111 Bullard Pkwy., Ste. A Temple Terrace, FL 33617 Fax: (813) 989-7119

### Legal Questions or Problems

(813) 232-1343  
 Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.  
 829 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
 Tampa, FL 33603-3336

### Complaints & Security Deposit Disputes

(813) 903-3430  
 Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Agency  
 8900 N. Armenia Avenue, Suite 226  
 Tampa, FL 33604

### Eviction Proceedings & Disputes

(813) 276-8100, X4362  
 Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court  
 13th Judicial Circuit  
 Edgecomb Courthouse  
 800 E. Twiggs St., 1st Floor, Room 103  
 Tampa, FL 33601  
 (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  
 Hillsborough County  
 Housing Choice Voucher Program  
 (813) 273-3794