



# 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)

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## 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
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(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
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### 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

1101 East 139th Avenue

Tampa, FL 33613-3420

### 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