

7 TIPS

For Tenants dealing with COVID-19



- 1** An eviction requires a court order. A notice from your landlord is not enough.
If you are no longer able to pay all or part of your rent because you lost your
- 2** job, or other causes, you should speak with your landlord to see if there are other options.
- 3** If your landlord won't agree to other options, the landlord still **MUST** give you a written notice with a certain amount of time to pay your rent. In most rental units, the notice has to be given to you three (3) business days to pay your rent **BEFORE** the landlord can file an eviction with the court. If you are renting a lot in a mobile home park, your landlord **MUST** give you five (5) business days to get current with your rent. If you are still not able to pay. Your landlord must still file a lawsuit to get the court order.
- 4** If you are served with an eviction complaint, the law gives you five (5) business days to file a written response with the court. It is always a good idea to talk with an attorney before you answer these legal documents -this can help make sure you don't lose out on any rights because your response was incomplete. See back for more legal help resources or Legal Aid Service of Collier County by telephone at (239) 775-4555.
- 5** If you cannot find an attorney or want to try responding to your landlord on your own, then you should reach out to your local County Clerk's Office to ask about ways you can file a response. Some responses can be filed online, although it is still important to reach out to the clerk and make sure you file on time.
- 6** If you do not file a response on time, you **COULD BE EVICTED**. There are some County Courts that are not allowing evictions right now. However, after the COVID-19 Pandemic is over and courts go back to normal operations, it may be too late to respond and defend yourself. So it is important to act now!
- 7** Your landlord is **NOT ALLOWED** to evict you without a court order! They **CANNOT** force you to move by changing locks, stopping utilities, or other acts that try and remove you from your home.

Disclaimer: This is general information only, not legal advice. To talk about your specific situation, contact Legal Aid Service of Collier County or another attorney.

HOW TO REACH LEGAL AID SERVICE OF COLLIER COUNTY

CALL US!
PHONES ARE OPEN
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Monday - Friday

NAPLES OFFICE

1

Serving: ALL OF COLLIER COUNTY
Call 239-775-4555

IMMOKALEE OFFICE

2

Serving: ALL OF COLLIER COUNTY
Call 239-775-4555

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OUR OFFICES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. WE ARE CONDUCTING BUSINESS REMOTELY AND ARE STILL OFFERING ASSISTANCE. OUR STAFF WILL COMMUNICATE WITH YOU BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS.

MORE LEGAL AID & OTHER RESOURCES

The American Bar Association's
Florida Legal Help Website
Florida.freelegalanswers.org

Senior Legal Helpline
(888) 895-7873

Florida Division of
Emergency Management
(850) 815-4000
www.floridadisaster.org

State Assistance Information Line
(800) 342-3557

Florida Veterans Legal Helpline
(866) 486-6161

CLERK OF COURTS

Collier County
(239) 252-2646

COLLIER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Lawyer Referral Service
(239) 252-8138

United Way of Collier and the Keys

211 or (239) 263-4211

Collier County Community and Human Services Div.

(239) 252-4228

RENTAL AND MORTGAGE PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The United Way of Collier County and the Keys is currently working with the Collier County Community and Human Services Division to set up a program to provide rent and mortgage payment assistance to qualified applicants. Applications are not currently being accepted, but anyone interested in the help should go to <https://unitedwayofcolliercounty.org/covid-19-response-partnership/> to learn more about the program and register to be notified when applications will begin being accepted. Applicants will submit electronic applications through an on-line portal (website). **There is expected to be high demand for the assistance and it is going to be given out to those who submit complete qualifying applications first.**