

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IF YOUR LANDLORD TAKES YOU TO COURT

STEP ONE:

1. Call Legal Aid (see below).
2. Go to your court date (if you don't, the case will automatically go against you).
3. If you or your landlord has applied for rent relief, bring any proof you have of that to court with you. If your landlord did not tell you about rent relief (which they are required to do before pursuing eviction), refused to apply for rent relief, or refused to cooperate with your rent relief application you should tell the judge and bring any evidence you have.
4. If you sent a letter asking for your landlord to apply for rent relief, take a copy of the letter and explain to the judge that you are applying for rent relief.
5. If you disagree with the amount that your landlord says you owe or what you already paid, say so. Even if you owe some rent the landlord must have given you notice of the exact and accurate amount of rent you owe. They also cannot include any excessive late fees (over 10%) or extra charges unless authorized by the lease.

STEP TWO:

1. Tell the judge if you do not agree with the amount you owe or if you disagree with your landlord about whether you paid.
2. Ask for a trial.
3. Say nothing else in court.

ALWAYS GO TO YOUR COURT DATE AND CALL LEGAL AID

Legal Aid Justice Center:

(804) 643-1086 (Richmond) (434) 977-0553 (Charlottesville)

(703) 778-3450 (Falls Church) (804) 862-2205 (Petersburg)

Virginia Eviction Legal Helpline: 1-833-NO-EVICT