

Can I be evicted during the COVID-19 Outbreak?

Evictions will NOT take place until further notice. There will be no new eviction orders, and outstanding eviction order will be postponed by the Sheriff's office. Your landlord is not allowed to evict you or lock you out from your unit without an Order from the Landlord and Tenant Board that is being enforced by the Sheriff. This means that at this time you cannot be evicted or locked out.

Note: your landlord can still serve eviction notices; however, no evictions are presently being enforced.

If my landlord tries to evict me or lock me out anyway, what can I do?

If you are locked out of your unit, you can call the Rental Housing Enforcement Unit to escort you back in:

Tel: 416-585-7214 Toll-free: 1-888-772-9277 MHO.RHEU.Info@Ontario.ca.

Is the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) open?

The physical location and front counter is closed to the public at this time. Many of the most common applications can still be filed online: <http://www.sjto.gov.on.ca/ltb/e-file/>. Where feasible, hearings may proceed by telephone or in writing; if you have submitted an application, your application will still be processed. There is presently no official update from the LTB or Social Justice Tribunals Ontario on whether applications submitted during this period of time will be given hearing dates.

What do I do if I have a hearing before the LTB?

All in-person hearings have been postponed. You may receive a new Notice of Hearing if your matter is now proceeding via alternate means (and is not eviction-related).

All hearings for evictions have been suspended. If you think your hearing involves an urgent issue, such as your safety, you may still have your matter heard at this time.

I want to make an application to the LTB but I missed the deadline because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Depending on when your deadline ended, you may still have time. The Government of Ontario has suspended limitation periods and procedural time periods relevant to tribunal proceedings, from March 16, 2020 to present. This includes the timeline for submitting an application to a tribunal, which tenants will now be able to submit at a later date. If you are not sure please seek assistance from a legal clinic like SALCO.

Do I have to pay my rent during this time?

Yes. You are still legally required to pay your rent if you can. If you cannot, you can contact your landlord to make alternate arrangements or you may have to not pay the full or part of the rent. In cases where you go into rent arrears landlords may make an application for eviction at a later date. The province has not indicate the process yet for tenants to catch up on rent.

For tenants who have heard of the #keepyourrent campaign and who are concerned about the repercussions, they can contact their local legal clinic for information and advice.

Does my landlord need to observe physical (social) distancing if entering my unit?

Normally, a landlord must give 24 hours notice, state the time of day they will enter (between 8am-8pm), and state their reason for entering. At present, this remains true. During the outbreak, landlords are also urged (but not required) to only make requests to enter in urgent situations, and to observe the rules around physical (social) distancing.

You can reach SALCO with housing related inquiries at:
(416)-487-6371

or

Find your local legal clinic at
www.legalaid.on.ca/legal-clinics/ or call: 416 979 1446

With the community quarantine still in place, we encourage everyone to:

Stay home and #StopTheSpread.