

Protection From Eviction Through October 3 for Non-Payment Of Rent

Actions You Need to Take To Get The Protection

AND

Rent Relief: Help Paying For Rent And Utilities

CDC MORATORIUM in effect until October 3.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a new eviction moratorium on Wednesday, August 3, 2021. The new order stops evictions in counties with heightened levels of community transmission. The Rhode Island Department of Health certified that all RI counties are covered under the CDC moratorium.

To be protected under the moratorium, you must fill out a CDC declaration form, apply for rental assistance, and be subject to eviction due to non-payment of rent. You can find the declaration form here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-eviction-declaration.html> [1]

Keep a copy and give a copy to your landlord

If you already submitted a CDC declaration form, you do not need to submit a new one. If the eviction started before the new CDC order was issued but was not completed, you cannot be moved out of your home until the moratorium ends on October 3. If a constable comes to your home to move you out, show them the copy of your CDC declaration form. If your eviction was because of non-payment of rent they will not move you out until after October 3.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE – RENT RELIEF RI PROGRAM

Apply at Rent Relief RI (<https://www.rihousing.com/rentreliefri>) Applications are only accepted online, but there are community helpers who can assist you with the application. [Click here](#) for information on how to find a community helper.

What to Know about Rent Relief RI:

- You do not need to have an eviction notice.
- You do not need to have legal status. If you have an ITIN, you can provide it, but neither an ITIN nor a social security number is required. Receipt of rent relief will not affect your immigration status or right to apply for citizenship.
- You will be asked for information about your income, whether you experienced a financial hardship during the pandemic and information about your landlord and rent. If you do not have the required documents, you can sign a statement (self-attestation form) confirming your income, hardship and rent history.
- You can find out the status of your application by calling the Call Center at 1-855-608-8756. If your application is denied, you have the right to appeal. Contact the Call Center for more information.

[1] Income must be less than \$99,000 per year (\$198,000 for a joint tax return)

Rent Relief RI Covers:

- Rent or utility arrears dating back to April 1, 2020 (*right now under ERA 1 regulations, applicants are eligible for up to a total of 15 months of assistance)
- Up to three months of forward-facing rent (this is included in the 15-month limit)
- Security deposit and first month's rent assistance is available if needed for you to move into a new home
- **Internet stipend** of \$150 – this is issued automatically. If you were approved for rent relief before the stipend was made available you can contact the Call Center to request it. 1-855-608-8756
- **Utility arrears** to April 1, 2020 – you do not have to owe any back rent or request rental assistance to be eligible for utility help. But you must show that you have fallen behind in payments during the pandemic and must meet the income requirements for Rent Relief RI.

IF YOU NEED LEGAL HELP including eviction defense and help accessing Rental Assistance [2]

- Rhode Island Center for Justice (CFJ), 401-491-1101 | rentreliefri@centerforjustice.org
CFJ provides eviction prevention and defense services for people living in private housing, including undocumented residents.
- Rhode Island Legal Services, 401-274-2652 | gacevedo@rils.org
RILS provides eviction prevention and defense services for people living in private and public housing and tenants who have Section 8 vouchers. RILS cannot represent undocumented residents.

[2] Remember: It is against the law to move someone out of an apartment without a court order.