

CAN MY LANDLORD JUST KICK ME OUT?

Southeastern Ohio Legal Services

No. A landlord is not permitted to put you out, change your locks, shut off your utilities, or set your property out without a court order signed by a judge. A landlord cannot even threaten to do these things to try to get you to move. If your landlord violates the law by doing any of these things, you should consult an attorney. You would have the right to file court action against your landlord for any money damages you suffer because of the landlord's actions and for a court order stopping the landlord's actions.

Your landlord must use the legal eviction process to evict you. Your landlord first must serve you with a proper notice to leave. Then the landlord must file a written eviction complaint with the local municipal or county court. After you are served with a summons and the complaint, a court hearing is held. If you lose and the judge decides you should be evicted, you usually will have to be out within 10 days.

Without a court order, your landlord is not permitted to do anything to try to force you to move out. If your landlord tries to force you out by using illegal means, you should contact an attorney immediately.