

RESIDENTIAL LEASE AGREEMENT

THIS LEASE (the "Lease") dated this 15th day of March, 2026

BETWEEN:

DLH Homes LLC

(the "Landlord")

- AND-

MARTINE L Hughes

(the "Tenant")

(individually the "Party" and collectively the "Parties")

IN CONSIDERATION OF the Landlord leasing certain premises to the Tenant and other valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which consideration is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

Leased Property

1. The Landlord agrees to rent to the Tenant the house, municipally described as 2305 ARUNAH AVE MD 21216, (the "Property"), for use as residential premises only. The Property is more particularly described as follows:
This property has 4 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms with a backyard and a front porch. This property is equipped with an emergency alarm.
Neither the Property nor any part of the Property will be used at any time during the term of this Lease by Tenant for the purpose of carrying on any business, profession, or trade of any kind, or for the purpose other than as a private single-family residence.
2. Subject to the provisions of this Lease, apart from the Tenant and the Tenant's immediate family members, no other persons will live in the Property without the prior written permission of the Landlord.
3. No guests of the Tenant may occupy the Property for longer than one week without the prior written consent of the Landlord.
4. No pets or animals are allowed to be kept in or about the Property without the prior written permission of the Landlord. Upon thirty (30) days' notice, the Landlord may revoke any consent

previously given pursuant to this clause.

5. Parking space is not provided under the terms of this Lease and no vehicle may park on or about the Property.
6. The Tenant and members of the Tenant's household will not smoke anywhere in the Property nor permit any guests or visitors to smoke in the Property.
7. The Tenant and members of the Tenant's household will not vape anywhere in the Property nor permit any guests or visitors to vape in the Property.
8. The Property is provided to the Tenant without any furnishings.

Term and Automatic Renewal

9. The term of the Lease is a periodic tenancy commencing at 12:00 noon on March 15, 2026 and continuing on a year-to-year basis until the Landlord or the Tenant terminates the tenancy.
10. Upon the greater of 30 day's notice and any notice required under the applicable legislation of the State of Maryland (the "Act"), the Landlord may terminate this tenancy if the Tenant has defaulted in the payment of any portion of the Rent when due, and that amount is still due after any grace period required by the Act.
11. Upon the greater of 14 day's notice and any notice required under the Act, the Landlord may terminate this tenancy if the Tenant has breached any provision of this lease.
12. Upon the greater of 30 day's notice and any notice required under the Act, the Landlord may terminate this tenancy without cause or reason.
13. Upon the greater of 30 day's notice and any notice required under the Act, the Tenant may terminate this tenancy without cause or reason.

Rent

14. Subject to the provisions of this Lease, the rent for the Property is \$1,700.00 per month (the "Rent").
15. The Tenant will pay the Rent monthly, on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of each and every month of the term of this Lease, to the Landlord at 10309 seaview ave Brooklyn New York 11236 or at such other place as the Landlord may later designate by cash, check or direct debit from a bank or other financial institution.
16. The Landlord may increase the Rent for the Property upon providing to the Tenant the greater of 60 days' notice and any notice required by the Act.
17. The Tenant will be charged an additional amount of \$85.00 per infraction for any Rent that is

received after the greater of five days after the due date and any mandatory grace period required under the Act, if any.

Security Deposit

18. On execution of this Lease, the Tenant will pay the Landlord a security deposit of \$1,700.00 (the "Security Deposit").
19. The Landlord will hold the Security Deposit at an interest bearing account solely devoted to security deposits
20. During the term of this Lease or after its termination, the Landlord may charge the Tenant or make deductions from the Security Deposit for any or all of the following:
 - a. repair of walls due to plugs, large nails or any unreasonable number of holes in the walls including the repainting of such damaged walls;
 - b. repainting required to repair the results of any other improper use or excessive damage by the Tenant;
 - c. unplugging toilets, sinks and drains;
 - d. replacing damaged or missing doors, windows, screens, mirrors or light fixtures;
 - e. repairing cuts, burns, or water damage to linoleum, rugs, and other areas;
 - f. any other repairs or cleaning due to any damage beyond normal wear and tear caused or permitted by the Tenant or by any person whom the Tenant is responsible for;
 - g. the cost of extermination where the Tenant or the Tenant's guests have brought or allowed insects into the Property or building;
 - h. repairs and replacement required where windows are left open which have caused plumbing to freeze, or rain or water damage to floors or walls;
 - i. replacement of locks and/or lost keys to the Property and any administrative fees associated with the replacement as a result of the Tenant's misplacement of the keys; and
 - j. any other purpose allowed under this Lease or the Act.

For the purpose of this clause, the Landlord may charge the Tenant for professional cleaning and repairs if the Tenant has not made alternate arrangements with the Landlord.

21. The Tenant may not use the Security Deposit as payment for the Rent.
22. The Landlord will return the Security Deposit at the end of this tenancy, less such deductions as provided in this Lease but no deduction will be made for damage due to reasonable wear and tear nor for any deduction prohibited by the Act.

23. Within the time period required by the Act and after the termination of this tenancy, the Landlord will deliver or mail the Security Deposit less any proper deductions or with further demand for payment to: _____, or at such other place as the Tenant may advise.

Condition of the Property and Quiet Enjoyment

24. The Property is in a safe and habitable condition, free from any serious defects that could pose a risk of fire or threaten the health or safety of the Tenant.
25. The Tenant will have access to heat, light, electricity, hot and cold running water, and proper sewage disposal.
26. The Landlord covenants that on paying the Rent and performing the covenants contained in this Lease, the Tenant will peacefully and quietly have, hold, and enjoy the Property for the agreed term.

Inspections

27. The Parties will complete, sign and date an inspection report at the beginning and at the end of this tenancy.
28. At all reasonable times during the term of this Lease and any renewal of this Lease, the Landlord and its agents may enter the Property to make inspections or repairs, or to show the Property to prospective tenants or purchasers upon the greater of 24 hours notice to the Tenant and any notice required by the Act.

Tenant Improvements

29. The Tenant will obtain written permission from the Landlord before doing any of the following:
- a. applying adhesive materials, or inserting nails or hooks in walls or ceilings other than two small picture hooks per wall;
 - b. painting, wallpapering, redecorating or in any way significantly altering the appearance of the Property;
 - c. removing or adding walls, or performing any structural alterations;
 - d. installing a waterbed(s);
 - e. changing the amount of heat or power normally used on the Property as well as installing additional electrical wiring or heating units;
 - f. placing or exposing or allowing to be placed or exposed anywhere inside or outside the Property any placard, notice or sign for advertising or any other purpose; or

- g. affixing to or erecting upon or near the Property any radio or TV antenna or tower.

Utilities and Other Charges

- 30. The Landlord is responsible for the payment of the following utilities and other charges in relation to the Property: water/sewer.

Insurance

- 31. The Tenant is hereby advised and understands that the personal property of the Tenant is not insured by the Landlord for either damage or loss, and the Landlord assumes no liability for any such loss.
- 32. The Tenant is not responsible for insuring the Landlord's contents and furnishings in or about the Property for either damage or loss, and the Tenant assumes no liability for any such loss.
- 33. The Tenant is not responsible for insuring the Property for either damage or loss to the structure, mechanical or improvements to the building of the Property, and the Tenant assumes no liability for any such loss.
- 34. The Tenant is not responsible for insuring the Property for liability insurance, and the Tenant assumes no liability for any such loss.

Attorney Fees

- 35. In the event that any action is filed in relation to this Lease, the unsuccessful Party in the action will pay to the successful Party, in addition to all the sums that either Party may be called on to pay, a reasonable sum for the successful Party's attorney fees.

Governing Law

- 36. This Lease will be construed in accordance with and exclusively governed by the laws of the State of Maryland.

Severability

- 37. If there is a conflict between any provision of this Lease and the Act, the Act will prevail and such provisions of the Lease will be amended or deleted as necessary in order to comply with the Act. Further, any provisions that are required by the Act are incorporated into this Lease.
- 38. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provisions of this Lease will not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Lease. Such other provisions remain in full force and effect.

Amendment of Lease

39. This Lease may only be amended or modified by a written document executed by the Parties.

Assignment and Subletting

40. The Tenant will not assign this Lease, or sublet or grant any concession or license to use the Property or any part of the Property. Any assignment, subletting, concession, or license, whether by operation of law or otherwise, will be void and will, at Landlord's option, terminate this Lease.

Additional Clauses

41. tenant responsible for taking their own trash, cutting their lawn, snow shoveling steps, and sidewalk. The tenant responsible for the mess in the backyard and the alley must always keep it clean. Responsible for any citations from the city concerning cutting grass and trash removal.
42. Tenants are responsible for their own exterminator (any pest). After 8 months, tenants are responsible for appliance damage. For any help protaining any fixing, you can contact my work guy at this number (Mr. Word) 443-979-1124.
43. Tenants can contact me between Monday and Saturday, 9 am - 6 pm. In case of emergency, contact Mr. Wood (443-9791124) or email me.

Damage to Property

44. If the Property should be damaged other than by the Tenant's negligence or willful act or that of the Tenant's employee, family, agent, or visitor and the Landlord decides not to rebuild or repair the Property, the Landlord may end this Lease by giving appropriate notice.

Care and Use of Property

45. The Tenant will promptly notify the Landlord of any damage, or of any situation that may significantly interfere with the normal use of the Property or to any furnishings supplied by the Landlord.
46. The Tenant will not engage in any illegal trade or activity on or about the Property.
47. The Parties will comply with standards of health, sanitation, fire, housing and safety as required by law.
48. The Parties will use reasonable efforts to maintain the Property in such a condition as to prevent the accumulation of moisture and the growth of mold. The Tenant will promptly notify the Landlord in writing of any moisture accumulation that occurs or of any visible evidence of mold discovered by the Tenant. The Landlord will promptly respond to any such written notices from

the Tenant.

49. If the Tenant is absent from the Property and the Property is unoccupied for a period of 4 consecutive days or longer, the Tenant will arrange for regular inspection by a competent person. The Landlord will be notified in advance as to the name, address and phone number of the person doing the inspections.
50. At the expiration of the term of this Lease, the Tenant will quit and surrender the Property in as good a state and condition as they were at the commencement of this Lease, reasonable use and wear and tear excepted.

Prohibited Activities and Materials

51. The Tenant will not keep or have on the property any article or thing of a dangerous, flammable or explosive character that might unreasonably increase the danger of fire on the Property or that might be considered hazardous by any responsible insurance company.
52. The Tenant will not perform any activity on the Property or have on the property any article or thing that the Landlord's insurance company considers increases any insured risk such that the insurance company denies coverage or increases the insurance premium.
53. The Tenant is prohibited from:
 - a. the storage of expensive articles on the Property if it creates an increased security risk; and
 - b. the growing of, or storage of, medical marijuana on the Property.
54. The Tenant will not perform any activity on the Property that the Landlord feels significantly increases the use of electricity, heat, water, sewer or other utilities on the Property.

Rules and Regulations

55. The Tenant will obey all rules and regulations of the Landlord regarding the Property.

Lead Warning

56. Housing built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. Lead from paint, paint chips, and dust can pose health hazards if not taken care of properly. Lead exposure is especially harmful to young children and pregnant women. Before renting pre-1978 housing, lessors must disclose the presence of known lead-based paint hazards in the dwelling. **Lessees must also receive a federally approved pamphlet on lead poisoning prevention.**

Mediation and Arbitration

57. If any dispute relating to this Lease between the Parties is not resolved through informal discussion

within 14 days from the date a dispute arises, the Parties agree to submit the issue first before a non-binding mediator and to an arbitrator in the event that mediation fails. The decision of the arbitrator will be binding on the Parties. Any mediator or arbitrator must be a neutral party acceptable to both Parties. The cost of any mediations or arbitrations will be paid by the Tenant.

Address for Notice

58. For any matter relating to this tenancy, the Tenant may be contacted at the Property or through the phone number below. After this tenancy has been terminated, the contact information of the Tenant is:
- a. Name: MARTINE L Hughes
 - b. Phone: (443) 743-8125
 - c. Email: Milana116@gmail.com
 - d. Post termination notice address: _____
59. For any matter relating to this tenancy, whether during or after this tenancy has been terminated, the Landlord's address for notice is:
- a. Name: DLH Homes LLC
 - b. Address: 10309 seaview ave Brooklyn New York 11236
- The contact information for the Landlord is:
- c. Phone: (347) 383-3966
 - d. Email: dlhhomes4@gmail.com

General Provisions

60. All monetary amounts stated or referred to in this Lease are based in the United States Dollar.
61. Any waiver by the Landlord of any failure by the Tenant to perform or observe the provisions of this Lease will not operate as a waiver of the Landlord's rights under this Lease in respect of any subsequent defaults, breaches or non-performance and will not defeat or affect in any way the Landlord's rights in respect of any subsequent default or breach.
62. This Lease will extend to and be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, as the case may be, of each Party. All covenants are to be construed as conditions of this Lease.
63. All sums payable by the Tenant to the Landlord pursuant to any provision of this Lease will be deemed to be additional rent and will be recovered by the Landlord as rental arrears.
64. Where there is more than one Tenant executing this Lease, all Tenants are jointly and severally

liable for each other's acts, omissions and liabilities pursuant to this Lease.

65. Locks may not be added or changed without the prior written agreement of both Parties, or unless the changes are made in compliance with the Act.
66. The Tenant will be charged an additional amount of \$45.00 for each N.S.F. check or checks returned by the Tenant's financial institution.
67. Headings are inserted for the convenience of the Parties only and are not to be considered when interpreting this Lease. Words in the singular mean and include the plural and vice versa. Words in the masculine mean and include the feminine and vice versa.
68. This Lease and the Tenant's leasehold interest under this Lease are and will be subject, subordinate, and inferior to any liens or encumbrances now or hereafter placed on the Property by the Landlord, all advances made under any such liens or encumbrances, the interest payable on any such liens or encumbrances, and any and all renewals or extensions such liens or encumbrances.
69. This Lease may be executed in counterparts. Facsimile signatures are binding and are considered to be original signatures.
70. This Lease constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties. Any prior understanding or representation of any kind preceding the date of this Lease will not be binding on either Party except to the extent incorporated in this Lease.
71. The Tenant will indemnify and save the Landlord, and the owner of the Property where different from the Landlord, harmless from all liabilities, fines, suits, claims, demands and actions of any kind or nature for which the Landlord will or may become liable or suffer by reason of any breach, violation or non-performance by the Tenant or by any person for whom the Tenant is responsible, of any covenant, term, or provisions hereof or by reason of any act, neglect or default on the part of the Tenant or other person for whom the Tenant is responsible. Such indemnification in respect of any such breach, violation or non-performance, damage to property, injury or death occurring during the term of the Lease will survive the termination of the Lease, notwithstanding anything in this Lease to the contrary.
72. The Tenant agrees that the Landlord will not be liable or responsible in any way for any personal injury or death that may be suffered or sustained by the Tenant or by any person for whom the Tenant is responsible who may be on the Property of the Landlord or for any loss of or damage or injury to any property, including cars and contents thereof belonging to the Tenant or to any other person for whom the Tenant is responsible.
73. The Tenant is responsible for any person or persons who are upon or occupying the Property or any other part of the Landlord's premises at the request of the Tenant, either express or implied, whether for the purposes of visiting the Tenant, making deliveries, repairs or attending upon the Property for any other reason. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Tenant is

responsible for all members of the Tenant's family, guests, servants, tradesmen, repairmen, employees, agents, invitees or other similar persons.

74. During the last 30 days of this Lease, the Landlord or the Landlord's agents will have the privilege of displaying the usual 'For Sale' or 'For Rent' or 'Vacancy' signs on the Property.
75. Time is of the essence in this Lease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF MARTINE L Hughes and DLH Homes LLC have duly affixed their signatures on this 15th day of March, 2026.

Landlord

DLH Homes LLC

Per: _____ (Seal)

Officer's Name: _____

Tenant



MARTINE L Hughes

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Tenant acknowledges that the term of the Lease will automatically renew unless the Tenant gives written notice of their intent not to renew within the specified notice period under the Act.

Tenant



MARTINE L Hughes

The Tenant acknowledges receiving a duplicate copy of this Lease signed by the Tenant and the Landlord on the 1st day of April, 2026.

Tenant

MARTINE L Hughes

Lead-Based Paint Disclosure

Property: 2305 ARUNAH AVE MD 21216

Landlord: DLH Homes LLC

Tenant: MARTINE L Hughes

Landlord's Disclosure

The Landlord CERTIFIES THAT:

1. The Landlord has NO knowledge of any lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in or about the Property.
2. The Landlord has NO records or reports relating to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in or about the Property.

Date: 1st day of April,
2026

Landlord

DLH Homes LLC

Per: _____ (Seal)

Officer's Name:

Tenant's Disclosure

The Tenant ACKNOWLEDGES receipt of:

1. the information contained in the above Landlord's Disclosure including the above-mentioned reports and records; and
2. the pamphlet *Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home* (EPA-747-K-99-001) or an equivalent pamphlet that has been approved for use in the state by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Date: 1st day of April,
2026

Tenant



MARTINE L Hughes

The pamphlet *Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home* can be ordered in hard copy or can be printed from the website <https://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-lead-your-home-english>.

Asbestos Disclosure

Property: 2305 ARUNAH AVE MD 21216

Landlord: DLH Homes LLC

Tenant: MARTINE L Hughes

Landlord's Disclosure

The Landlord CERTIFIES THAT:

1. The Landlord has investigated and there is no asbestos in or about the Property.
2. The Landlord has NO records or reports with respect to asbestos in or about the Property.

Date: _____ day of _____,

Landlord

DLH Homes LLC

Per: _____ (Seal)

Officer's Name:

Tenant's Disclosure

The Tenant ACKNOWLEDGES receipt of the information contained in the above Landlord's Disclosure including any reports and records.

Date: 1st day of April,
2026

Tenant


MARTINE L Hughes

SECURITY DEPOSIT RECEIPT

The Landlord/Property Manager acknowledges and accepts the security deposit paid by the Tenant in the amount of \$1,700.00 for the Property located at 2305 ARUNAH AVE MD 21216.

In accordance with the Act, the Landlord notifies the Tenant of the following:

1. The Tenant has the right to have the Property inspected by the Landlord in the Tenant's presence for the purpose of making a written list of damages that exist at the beginning of the tenancy, if the Tenant so requests by certified mail within 15 days of the Tenant's occupancy;
2. If the Tenant notifies the Landlord by certified mail at least 15 days prior to the date of the Tenant's intended move, the Tenant's intention to move, the Tenant's move date, and the Tenant's new address, the Tenant has the right to be present when the Landlord inspects the Property at the end of the tenancy for the purpose of determining if any damage was done to the Property;
3. The Landlord has an obligation to conduct the inspection within five days before or after the Tenant's stated date of intended moving;
4. The Landlord has an obligation to notify the Tenant in writing of the date of the inspection;
5. The Tenant has the right to receive, by first-class mail delivered to the Tenant's last known address, a written list of charges against the Security Deposit claimed by the Landlord and the actual costs, within 45 days after the termination of the tenancy;
6. The Landlord has an obligation to return, by first-class mail addressed to the Tenant's last known address, any unused portion of the Security Deposit, within 45 days after the termination of the tenancy; and
7. The failure of the Landlord to comply with the security deposit law may result in the Landlord being liable to the Tenant for a penalty of up to three times the Security Deposit withheld, plus reasonable attorney's fees.

Landlord

DLH Homes LLC

Per: _____ (Seal)

Officer's Name: _____

MARYLAND TENANTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Effective October 1, 2025)

Maryland law requires the Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs to publish a Tenants' Bill of Rights and update it annually. The Maryland Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs website has additional language translations of the Tenant Bill of Rights on the website listed at the end of this document. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs drafted this document, not your landlord.

Landlords must attach the latest version of this document to every residential lease. (Housing and Community Development Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 5-101 through 5-104 and Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Section 8-208)

This document summarizes significant rights of tenants under Maryland law. It is not a complete list of every tenant right. It does not cover every detail, exception, or difference that may apply on a case-by-case basis.

Additional information may be available through:

- The Maryland Code references listed with each right or other applicable laws
- Independent research through Maryland Court Help Centers and The Peoples' Law Library of Maryland
- Consulting with an attorney

Some local jurisdictions within the state may offer additional rights to residential tenants. But the rights in this Maryland Tenants' Bill of Rights apply to all residential tenants in Maryland unless specifically noted otherwise.

This is general information and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to speak with an attorney if you have questions about your rights as a tenant. Contact information for legal services is listed at the end of this Bill of Rights.

1. RENTAL APPLICATIONS

Application fees:

- Landlords who rent five or more units can only keep a maximum of \$25 for an application fee, unless their actual application related costs (such as credit checks) are more than \$25.
- If a landlord charges more than \$25 but their costs were less than the amount charged, they must refund the portion of the application fee that was not used for application-related costs.
- The refund must be made within 15 days of one of the following:

- The tenant moved into the unit, or
- The landlord or the applicant gives written notice that the applicant will not rent the unit.

Application expenses:

- Applicants may ask the Landlord for a list of the application expenses.
- The list must include monetary amounts and descriptions of each expense.

Tenant screening report:

- Some landlords may choose to accept a tenant screening report that was:
 - Prepared by a consumer reporting agency within the 30 days before application is submitted,
 - Prepared by a consumer reporting agency, and
 - Obtained and paid for by the tenant.
- If a landlord accepts such a report, they may not charge you an application fee.

Pet policy:

- Landlords must include a written copy or a summary of their pet policy in their rental application form.
- The pet policy must include:
 - Any breed or weight restrictions.
 - Any limit on the number of pets allowed.
 - Any required fees, including:
 - Up front non-refundable pet fees,
 - Refundable pet deposits, and
 - Monthly pet fees.
 - Any vaccination requirements.
 - Any liability insurance requirements.
 - Any additional requirements

Assistance Animals:

- Assistance animals are not pets and are always allowed, regardless of your landlord's pet policy. An assistance animal is an animal that:
 - works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or
 - provides emotional support that reduces one or more identified effects of a person's disability,
- If you have an assistance animal, your landlord can't charge an additional application fee or additional security deposit for your assistance animal. Your landlord can charge you repair fees if your assistance animal causes damage to your unit or common areas.
- Landlords may ask for information that allows them to evaluate a request for an assistance animal if:
 - Your disability is not obvious, and/or
 - Your need for an assistance animal is not obvious.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-210, 8-213, and 8-218, 42 U.S.C. 3604)

2. LEASES & TENANCIES

Written lease requirements:

- A landlord who rents five or more units in Maryland is required to use a written lease.
- A landlord who rents four or fewer units in the state is not required to use a written lease. If the landlord does not use a written lease, tenancy is presumed to be 1 year from the tenant's first use of the unit.
- If your landlord gives you a written lease, it must include:
 - A statement of the condition of the property
 - An explanation of who is required to pay for heat, gas, electricity, water utilities and make repairs of the premises
 - A receipt for your security deposit
 - A copy of the most recent version of the Maryland Tenants' Bill of Rights
 - Contact information for the landlord or the agent authorized to receive notices and service of process on the landlord's behalf (unless posted in a noticeable place on the property).
- Local jurisdictions may require additional information in leases.

A lease may not include:

- Anything that requires you to allow the landlord to "confess judgment" (agree in advance to let the landlord win a claim) on a claim arising out of the lease.
- Anything that says you give up your legal rights under the law or your right to a jury trial.
- Any provision that shortens any notice period required by law.
- Any other provision identified in Section 8-208 of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, or any other provision otherwise prohibited by law.

An automatic renewal term in a lease must:

- Be separate from other parts of the lease.
- Be signed or acknowledged separately by you.

Ending tenancy:

- For the landlord to end your tenancy:
 - For a written lease with a stated term, the landlord must give you at least 60 days written notice before terminating the tenancy.
 - For month-to-month periodic tenancies, the landlord must give you at least 60 days written notice before terminating the tenancy.
 - For year-to-year periodic tenancies, the landlord must give at least 90 days written notice before the tenancy ends.
- For you to end your tenancy:
 - For leases with a stated term, month-to-month tenancies, and all other tenancies except year-to-year tenancy, you must give at least 30 days written notice before terminating the tenancy, unless the lease requires more time.
 - For year-to-year tenancies you must give at least 90 days written notice before terminating the tenancy. (This requirement does not apply in Baltimore City where tenants are only required to provide 30 days notice to end all tenancies.)

Ending your lease early due to abuse:

- If you have experienced abuse, you can end your lease early by giving notice to your landlord. The notice must include
 - A copy of a final protective order or peace order issued by the courts, or
 - A copy of a report from a qualified third party like a doctor, psychologist, social worker, or an advocate from a domestic violence organization.
- After providing notice, you have up to 30 days to move out.
 - You are only responsible for the rent from the notice date until you move out, which may be less than 30 days.

- If you move out in fewer than 30 days, you must give your landlord a signed, notarized, and written notification that you have moved out. The notification must be hand delivered or sent by first class mail.
- If you do not give your landlord this notice, you will be responsible for the rent for the full 30 days.

If the lease ends and no one gives notice:

- If neither side gives notice, your lease may automatically renew or become month-to-month, depending on the terms of your lease.
- Less common tenancies like week-to-week, year-to-year, or farm tenancies have different notice requirements.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-5A-01, 8-5A-02, 8-5A-03, 8-208, 8-210, and 8-402; Baltimore City Public Local Law Section 9-16)

3. RENT

- Rent is due as your lease states.
- If you pay rent late, your landlord can charge a late fee, but it cannot be more than 5% of the late rent amount. You cannot be charged a late fee on partial rent payments paid on time.
- Your landlord must give you a receipt for your rent payment if you pay rent in cash or if you ask for a receipt.
- Rent Increases:
 - Your landlord may only increase your rent when your lease is renewed.
 - In most cases, they must tell you in writing 90 days in advance of any rent increase.
 - Some local jurisdictions may limit how much rent can be increased, but there is no statewide law that limits rent increases when your lease is renewed.
 - Your landlord can provide notice of a rent increase by email, text, or electronic tenant portal only if you have agreed to receive notices electronically.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-205, 8-205.1, 8-208, and 8-209)

4. UTILITIES

Your unit must offer heat, light, electricity, hot and cold water, and proper sewage disposal. However, your landlord is not responsible if these utilities are not available because you have not paid bills that are your responsibility.

If your lease requires you to pay utilities directly to your landlord, your landlord must

- Give you copies of the monthly utility bills or,
- At the beginning of each lease term, give you in writing the total utility costs billed to the landlord for the previous year. Annual costs for water, sewer, gas, and electricity bills for the previous year must be provided separately.

Some landlords in larger buildings use a Ratio Utility Building System (RUBS) where tenants are charged a portion of the building's total utility costs. If your landlord uses RUBS, they must:

- Tell you before you sign your lease that they use RUBS,
- Provide copies of the last two utilities bills, and
- Describe how they calculate your share of the total utility costs.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-208, 8-211, 8-212)

5. SECURITY DEPOSITS

Maximum deposit:

- In most cases, a landlord may not require you to pay a security deposit higher than one month's rent.
- You may offer a larger security deposit if your rental application would be denied based on credit or rental history.
- Your security deposit may be up to two months' rent If:
 - You signed your lease before October 1, 2024 or
 - If you qualify for utility assistance from the Department of Human Services and lease agreement requires you to pay utilities directly to the landlord.

What is a security deposit:

- A "security deposit" is any payment you give to the landlord, including pet deposits, to protect the landlord against
 - Unpaid rent
 - Property damage to the unit, common areas, major appliances, and furnishings
 - Damage due to lease violations

Payment rules:

- Your landlord may not require you to pay more than the sum of the first month's rent and the security deposit before you move in.

- The landlord must keep your security deposit in an interest-paying bank account.
- The landlord must give you a written receipt, which must be included with the written lease.
- The landlord must inform you about your rights and the landlord's responsibilities relating to the security deposit when you pay the security deposit.

Move-out inspection at end of tenancy:

- In the move-out inspection, the landlord inspects the unit for damage that may reduce your security damage.
- If you plan to move out and want the right to be present during the inspection, you must send your landlord a certified letter at least 15 days before leaving. The letter should:
 - Say that you plan to move,
 - Share your move-out date, and
 - Include your new address
- At the end of your tenancy, your landlord must give you a written list of any charges deducted from the security deposit and documents supporting the charges.
- They must return the rest of your deposit with interest within 45 days.

Allowed deductions:

Charges a landlord may legally deduct your security deposit include:

- Damage to the property beyond normal wear and tear
- Unpaid rent or utility bills
- Costs or fees from an eviction case judgment

If the deposit is not returned on time:

- If the landlord does not return your deposit or give you a written list of charges within 45 days after your lease ends, they may lose the right to keep any of the deposit.
- You may sue the landlord for up to three times the amount the landlord did not return.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-203 and 8-203.1)

6. CONDITION OF RENTAL UNITS

Every rental property must be "fit for human habitation," meaning that it must be safe and suitable for people to live in. It must be free from serious defects or conditions that could cause a fire or are a serious and substantial threat to your life, health or safety.

Reporting a problem:

- Notify your landlord in writing right away if you find a problem.
- You can also reach out to your local code enforcement agency and request an inspection.
- A citation or violation notice is considered written notice to the landlord.

Mold-specific requirements:

- Landlords must test for a mold within 15 days of receiving written notice of possible mold in your unit.
- If mold is found, the landlord must remove it and fix the cause within 45 days if possible.
- If the mold can't be fixed within 45 days, it must be fixed within a reasonable time frame after the mold is found.
- Landlords must keep you informed during the mold testing and repair process.

Repair and Access:

- Landlords must provide at least 24 hours of advance notice before entering your apartment, except in an emergency.
- You must provide your landlord with access to your property to make repairs.

If problems are not fixed:

If your landlord doesn't fix the problem within a reasonable time after you provide notice, and the problem threatens life, health, or safety you have options:

- File a lawsuit in District Court for damages and a decrease in rent.
- Refuse to pay rent and use the issues as a defense if the landlord sues you for rent.
- File a rent escrow case, which allows you pay rent to the court instead of the landlord until the problems are fixed.

Lead paint:

If lead paint is present in the unit, you may, in certain circumstances, have the right to:

- Receive money from your landlord for a temporary relocation
- Take legal action if your landlord does not assist with safe relocation

Living in your unit:

- You have the right to quiet enjoyment of your rental unit for the duration of your tenancy.

- You have the right to move in and use the unit starting on the date listed in your lease.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-204, 8-211, 8-212, 8-215, and 8-220)

7. EVICTIONS

Your landlord may start the eviction process by filing a case in the District Court if you:

- Violate your lease
- Don't pay rent on time
- Don't move out when your lease ends

Court process required:

- Your landlord may not evict you unless the District Court has given the landlord the right to the property (called a judgment of possession) and issued an order to remove you (called a warrant of restitution).
- Efforts to evict you like changing the locks, shutting off utilities, or other similar actions to prevent your access to the unit or ability to live safely in the unit are not allowed.

Your rights in court:

- You have the right to attend any court hearing in an eviction case brought against you by a landlord.
- You may qualify for a free attorney through Maryland's Access to Counsel in Evictions program if your income is 50% of the Area Median Income or less. Call 211 or visit legalhelpmd.org to find out if you qualify.
- You can access legal counsel as soon as you receive notice that your landlord is seeking to end the lease or to start the eviction process.

Notice before eviction:

- If you owe rent, your landlord must notify you in writing at least 10 days before filing an eviction case for failure to pay rent against you in District Court.
- In a "Failure to Pay Rent" eviction case, rent only includes the base rent. It may not include utility charges, maintenance charges or other penalties.
- A longer notice period may be required if you receive a housing subsidy funded by the state or federal government.
- Other types of eviction filings, such as a lease violation or staying in the rental unit longer than the time allowed by your lease may also require more notice.

Eviction requirements and stopping the eviction:

- If the court rules against you, you have seven days to move out or the landlord can ask the court to issue a warrant of restitution to evict you by removing all of your property from the unit.
- In most cases, you can stop the eviction by paying all past-due rent and any court costs the court orders you to pay before the eviction is carried out. This is called the “right of redemption.”
- Redemption may not be an option if:
 - you have had three (four in Baltimore City) or more eviction judgments for unpaid rent in the 12 months before the current case, and
 - your landlord asks the court not to allow you to redeem.
- Your landlord must give you written notice before the initial scheduled eviction. Six days is required under state law. Your local jurisdictions can the number of days required but it must be between four and 14 days of notice before the initial scheduled eviction.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-401, 8-402, 8-402.1, 8-407, and 8-902)

8. CONSTRUCTIVE EVICTIONS

In Maryland, constructive eviction occurs when your landlord doesn’t fix a major issue that stops your use and enjoyment of your rental unit and you move out instead.

When it applies:

You may not be responsible for the rent if you can prove all of the following:

- Your landlord’s actions or neglect cause the major issue that disrupted your use and enjoyment of your unit.
- You told your landlord about the issue.
- You gave the landlord a reasonable amount of time to fix it before you moved out.
- You moved out within a reasonable time after your landlord failed to fix a major issue.

Before moving out, you should consult with an attorney. If you can prove construction eviction,

- Your lease will be considered ended (terminated).
- You will not be responsible for paying rent after you move out.
- You may be able to sue your landlord for your losses-- including moving costs, rent differences, attorney fees, and other related expenses.

What landlords must do to avoid constructive eviction:

- Landlords must avoid substantial interference with the tenant's enjoyment of their rental property,
- Ensure the rental property is safe and livable.
- Generally respond to tenant complaints promptly to avoid legal and financial consequences.

9. TENANT RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

The “right of first refusal” (a legal term) means you get the first chance to buy the property you rent before the landlord sells it to someone else.

When it applies:

- You are a named tenant on the lease.
- You have lived in a rental property with 1, 2, or 3 units for at least six months.
- Your landlord plans to sell the property or receives an offer to buy it from a third party.

However, this rule does not apply in certain situations, such as when the landlord transfers the property without selling it, including transfers:

- To a family member
- To a business owned by the landlord
- Under court order

Notice process:

If your landlord notifies you that they intend to sell the property to a third party, the notice should also include your right to make an offer to buy it.

- You have 30 days from the date of the notice to make an offer to buy the property or decline.
- If you make an offer with the same or better terms than those in the notice, your landlord must accept it.
- If you decline to make an offer, your landlord may sell the property to a third party.

Some local jurisdictions may have their own laws about a tenant's right of first refusal or the opportunity to buy a rental property in cases not covered by state law.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Section 8-119)

10. PROHIBITED ACTS BY LANDLORDS

Housing discrimination is illegal under state and federal law. Landlords may not discriminate against potential or current tenants on the basis of:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- Sex
- Disability
- Marital status
- Familial status
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- National origin
- Source of income
- Military Status.

Some local jurisdictions may provide additional anti-discrimination protections.

Retaliation:

A landlord may not retaliate, or threaten to retaliate, against you for:

- Making a good faith complaint about a violation of your lease, violation of the law, or the condition of the rental property.
- Filing or participating in a lawsuit involving the landlord.
- Participating in a tenants' organization.
- Requesting police or emergency services at the property.
- Providing information to the landlord relating to lead paint issues.

Retaliation may include actions such as:

- Filing or threatening to file a lawsuit against you.
- Threatening to notify law enforcement about your immigration status.
- Increasing the rent, decreasing the services to you as a tenant (for example, shutting off utilities).
- Failing to make necessary repairs, or terminating your tenancy, among other things.



It is a crime for anyone, including landlords, to attempt to take money, property, labor, services, or anything of value by threatening to notify law enforcement about your immigration status.

Notice requirements before your landlord can enter your unit:

Unless your lease says otherwise, you have the right to quiet enjoyment of your residence. Your landlord has the right to enter your unit for legitimate purposes such as making necessary repairs, inspecting the unit, or showing the unit to prospective renters.

- Your landlord must notify you in writing at least 24 hours in advance of the inspection or repairs
- They can only enter the unit Monday through Saturday, from 7am to 7pm, unless it is an emergency.
- You can give your landlord written permission to enter your home with less than 24 hours notice.

Your lease may provide more details, and your local jurisdiction may have more rules on when your landlord may enter your unit.

(42 U.S.C. Sections 3601, et seq.; State Government Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 20-101, 20-704, and 20-705; Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 2-115, 8-204, 8-208.1, and 8-208.2; Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code, Section 3-701)

Exceptions to the protections of these laws exist in certain circumstances.

11. RESOURCES

Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Website: [Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs](http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Tenant-Landlord-Affairs) (dhcd.maryland.gov/Tenant-Landlord-Affairs)

Phone: 855-511-3423

Email: otla.dhcd@maryland.gov

The Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs website has additional educational information and support staff for navigating renter rights and laws, including:

- Contact information for local legal aid organizations
- Contact information for local county offices of tenant rights
- Contact information for local homeless services and rental assistance programs if you have already lost your housing
- Frequently asked questions and answers for tenants and landlords



- Outreach materials for tenants and landlords
- How to report a case of fair housing discrimination or landlord violation of federal, state, or local renter laws to enforcement agencies

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR)

Website: mccr.maryland.gov

MCCR investigates housing discrimination complaints.

Maryland Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) Program

Contact Information: Call 211 or go to [Legal Help Maryland](http://LegalHelpMaryland.org) (LegalHelpMD.org)

ACE provides free legal representation to income eligible renters at risk of eviction, has lost or is at risk of losing their housing voucher or subsidy.

Maryland District Court Self-Help Centers

Contact Information and Hours varies by location:

Website: [District Court Help Centers](http://courts.state.md.us/helpcenter/inperson/dc) (courts.state.md.us/helpcenter/inperson/dc)

If you are unable to go in person, call 410-260-1392 for assistance.

Services Provided:

- The self-help centers can assist renters with a landlord-tenant issue or case who are not already represented by a lawyer or attorney.
- The centers offer live chat, phone, and in-person services at 10 district court locations.
- Renters can receive help with understanding court documents, preparing for court hearings, completing court forms, preparing for mediation, and finding a lawyer.

The People's Law Library of Maryland

Website: [The People's Law Library of Maryland](http://ThePeople'sLawLibraryofMaryland.org) (peoples-law.org)

The People's Law Library is a legal information and self-help website maintained by a court-related agency of the Maryland Judiciary. It's also supported by Maryland's nonprofit legal service providers, pro bono attorneys, and law schools.

Services provided:

- The website provides general information about the law to people representing themselves in court.
- They offer a directory of legal service organizations who may be able to assist you in resolving your civil legal problems.