

Know Your Rights: Illegal Evictions

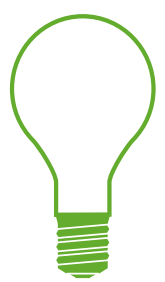


What is an illegal eviction?

An illegal eviction is when your landlord attempts to evict you without taking you to court. Examples include:



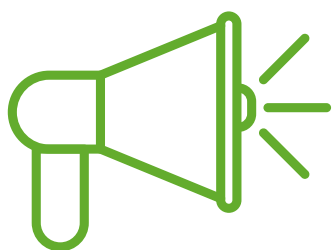
Changing or removing your locks



Shutting off your utilities



Removing your possessions



Using or threatening use of force

Your landlord cannot evict you without taking you to court and getting an order from a judge!



It is a **class A misdemeanor** for any person to try to illegally evict a tenant (under Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law Section 768). It is the responsibility of the police/sheriff to enforce this law.

You may be able to get "**triple damages**" or three times the amount of any losses or expenses caused by the illegal eviction (under Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law Section 853).

**If your landlord is attempting an illegal eviction,
contact Legal Assistance of Western New York**

LawNY Geneva Office
361 South Main Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Call us at 315-781-1465
(Toll Free: 866-781-5235)
Visit our website at lawny.org

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