



# Renters, if you are behind on rent...



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## Prepare now for your day in court:

**Get Support:** Contact a renter support organization to help you prepare:

- Montgomery County Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs: 311 (240-777-0311)
- CASA: 301-431-4185
- Housing Initiative Partnership: 301-916-5946
- Latino Economic Development Center: 202-540-7438
- Renters Alliance: [info@rentersalliance.org](mailto:info@rentersalliance.org)

**Eviction protections exist. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/renters](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/renters) to learn how the Governor's Order or CDC Order might protect you from eviction. Then, take action to prepare:**

- **Federal CDC Order:** Learn whether you are eligible for eviction protection under the federal CDC order. If you meet requirements in the declaration form (available at website above), you must sign and mail it to your landlord (certified mail recommended). Keep a copy.
- **Governor's Order:** The Governor's order can suspend eviction if you go to court and present proof of substantial loss of income due to COVID (job loss, care for children, hours lost). Gather documents now because when a court notice arrives, there is not much time. Documents can be anything that indicates layoff, hours cut, bank statements, other accounting records, care for school-age child.

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## Take action if you receive a court summons:

- **Call Legal Aid** for help (240-314-0373)
- **Call 311 (240-777-0311)** and ask for Housing Stabilization Assistance
- **Come to Court!** Protections are only available if you show up!
  - » You must appear in court to present evidence for failure-to-pay-rent protection
  - » Bring copies of documents (proof of lost income due to COVID or lost work hours to care for school-age child and/or proof you gave CDC declaration to your landlord)
  - » When you arrive at court, look for Legal Aid.

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## Work with your landlord:

- **Rent is still due** – ask a support organization or call 311 for help with this.
- **Seek help with rent** by visiting [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/renters](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/renters) or calling 311
- **You cannot be forced to leave your apartment** until the court issues a court order. If you have questions about a notice from your landlord, call 311 (240-777-0311). Or, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/renters](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/renters)