

Quick Tips

- Before you sign the lease, make sure you read and understand the terms of the agreement.
- Notices to and from a landlord must be in writing.
- Keep copies of all documents for your records.
- Before you move in and prior to moving out, conduct a walk-through with the landlord and document any damages.
- When you get ready to move from a rental unit, regardless of the duration, be sure to settle all accounts, understand the conditions of a security deposit, provide a forwarding address and leave the premises in a clean condition.



Pinellas County Office of Consumer Protection

To file a complaint or to speak with an investigator, contact Consumer Protection at:

Tel.: (727) 464-6200

Fax: (727) 464-6129

Email: consumer@pinellascounty.org

www.pinellascounty.org/consumer



Florida Landlord-Tenant Law

Before you rent, know your rights and responsibilities under the law.

Florida Statute 83

Landlord and Tenant, Part II,

Residential Tenancies

www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/



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Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
To obtain accessible formats of this document, please call (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD).
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The Guide to Renting

PINELLAS COUNTY **CONSUMER PROTECTION**





The Office of Consumer Protection

Consumer Protection provides assistance for the resolution of consumer-business disputes. Often, disputes may involve landlord-tenant issues, such as the responsibilities of each party, the refund of a deposit or the termination of a lease.

Consumer Protection provides the following guide to inform renters of services available for assistance with landlord-tenant matters.



Help For Renters

Assistance is available for renters through the following agencies:

Pinellas County Housing Authority

www.pin-cha.org/

(727) 443-7684

Offers long-term affordable housing and rental assistance programs for income-eligible families, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The programs include Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), public housing and assisted living facilities.

Clearwater Housing Authority

(727) 461-5777

Tarpon Springs Housing Authority

(727) 937-4411

St. Petersburg Housing Authority

(727) 323-3171

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares and Mobile Homes

www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/lsc/mobilehomes.html

(850) 488-1122

Enforces Florida Mobile Home Act (FL Statute 723), which applies to the rental of mobile homes located on a rented or leased lot in a mobile home park where 10 or more lots are offered for rent or lease.

Community Development

www.pinellascounty.org/community/rentalinfo.htm

(727) 464-8210

Provides access to the resources and services available in Pinellas County, including assisted living facilities, community housing and public housing.

The Pinellas County Office of Human Rights

www.pinellascounty.org/humanrights/

(727) 464-4880

Committed to protecting all citizens of Pinellas County from cases of discrimination. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination for the sale, rental or mortgage lending of housing because of race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, familial status or disability.

Pinellas County Neighborhood Code Enforcement*

www.pinellascounty.org/build/code-enforcement.htm

(727) 464-4761

Regulates code compliance in Pinellas County's unincorporated neighborhoods and maintains a complaint system that provides an avenue to air grievances or complaints about various activities within neighborhoods.

*To file a complaint within the city limits of Pinellas County, see the individual municipalities.



Legal Assistance

When seeking legal help, the following services are available:

Self Help Centers

www.pinellasclerk.org/selfhelp.htm

Pinellas County citizens who represent themselves in court and do not already have a private attorney representing them, can now receive affordable legal assistance for a nominal fee. Attorneys only assist with family law, landlord-tenant and small claims.

For more information, hours and locations call:

Clearwater (727) 464-5150

St. Petersburg (727) 582-7941

North County branch (727) 464-5150

Gulfcoast Legal Services

www.gulfcoastlegal.org/

(727) 821-0726

Provides **free legal aid** to income eligible residents of the greater Tampa Bay area. Services include housing, mortgage foreclosure and consumer matters.

Lawyer Referral Service

www.clwbar.org/lrsp.html

(727) 461-4880

The Lawyer Referral Service makes legal services readily available to individuals and families in need of a lawyer.