



How to Form a Tenant Association

What *is* a tenant association?

- An organization of tenants, usually with a shared landlord, whose aim is to improve the housing conditions, amenities, community life, and contractual positions of its members.
- Tenant associations can vary from an incorporated nonprofit with an executive board, to a group of tenants with no formal organization or hierarchy, and everywhere in between.
- A tenant association can be formed in a mobile home park, a subsidized housing complex, or privately owned housing. The protections available may vary based on the type of property.

What are the benefits of forming a tenant association?

- Tenant associations greatly increase the power of tenants to address a range of issues including maintenance, community life, and contractual positions.
- A reduced likelihood of retaliation against individuals by management.

How do I form a tenant association?

1. Talk to your neighbors to see if you are experiencing the same problems.
2. Hold a preliminary meeting to discuss common problems.
3. The tenants who participate in the first meeting knock on doors of other tenants to find neighbors who want to join them in forming a tenant association.
4. Find volunteers who are interested in running for office in the tenant association, then post flyers announcing the date and time of the election and who is running for which office.
5. Hold elections in a public place for the officers of the tenant association.
6. The officers then decide when and where the tenant association should meet and how the decisions should be made. They create bylaws formalizing these decisions.
7. The tenant association leadership holds regular general membership meetings to decide the priorities and work of the tenant association.

What do I do if I need help?

If you need help, you can call the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. LASC can help people who have low incomes, veterans, seniors, and others.

This information is based on current Landlord-Tenant laws, which are subject to change.

For free help contact:

The Legal Aid Society of Columbus

Call: (740) 383-2161 or Toll-Free 1-888-301-2411

Visit: www.columbuslegalaid.org

150 Oak Street, Marion, OH 43302

Office Hours: 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

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