

## **What Is An Illegal Lockout?**

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A lockout is illegal when your landlord forces you to move or does not let you into your home without first going to court and having you served with a warrant of eviction. Changing the locks, removing the front door or turning off the heat, electricity or water would be considered illegal.

### **What should I do if I am locked out of my home illegally?**

If your landlord locks you out of your apartment illegally, call the police either by dialing 286-4547 in Niagara Falls, or by calling your local precinct. When you call, make sure to write down the name of the person you talk to.

### **What happens next?**

The police should send officers to the apartment. Make sure to get the names of the officers. When they respond, tell them that your landlord locked you out.

### **What if the police are not helpful?**

If the police are not helpful, contact the Captain at the precinct that responded to your call. Explain the problem. If it is after 4:00 p.m., ask for the Duty Officer and ask that person to send in a Duty Inspector.

### **Is my landlord responsible for my expenses if I am illegally locked out?**

Your landlord may be responsible for the money you have to spend because you were locked out. If you do spend money on a hotel or in a restaurant, save your receipts. You may be able to get some of your money back. Contact Neighborhood Legal Services for help.

### **What if the police can't help me?**

If you cannot get back into your apartment after calling the police, call Neighborhood Legal Services.

### **What can I do to get my things back?**

You may have to sue your landlord. See the hotline entitled Small Claims Court for more information.