

Can't stay in your rented home or apartment because of the flood?

Look at this list of Tennessee flood counties:

Davidson	Sevier
Madison	Shelby
Maury	Sumner
Montgomery	Williamson
Rutherford	Wilson

Do you live in a Tennessee flood county that's **not** on this list? Then go to page 2.

Do you live in a county that's **on** this list? If so, keep reading this page.

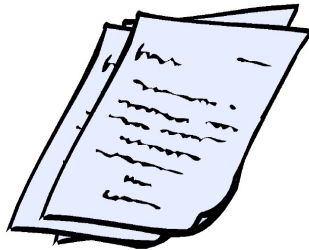
How can I get help to rent another place?

You can call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362. Ask for help with Temporary Housing. You must apply **by July 6, 2010**.

If I have to move because of the flood, can I get my rent back?

You can get part of your rent back if:

1. You live in a county listed above and
2. The flood messed up your place really badly and
3. You move out of your flooded place and
4. Within 14 days after you move, you tell the landlord in writing. Write:
 - The date you moved
 - You want to end the lease on that date because of the flood
 - How to contact you
 - Where to send you the refund of your rent and deposit



Make a copy of this page and send it with your letter. Keep a copy of your letter.

Smart move: Send your letter certified and ask to get back proof the landlord got it. This ends your lease. Then your landlord must give back the rest of the month's rent. The landlord must also give back your deposit.

What if I did these things but my landlord has not given my rent back?

You can sue your landlord in General Sessions Civil Court. The Judge can order the landlord to pay. It's always better to have a lawyer. But you don't have to have one in this court. See our booklet called, "No Lawyer? You can speak for yourself in General Sessions Court." It's on the Internet at www.las.org.



What if I didn't write to the landlord within 14 days after I moved?

You don't have a legal right to get your rent money back. But, it never hurts to ask.

This law described on this page is called The Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act (TCA § 66-28-503). This information was adapted from the Disaster Assistance Manual written by the Young Lawyers Division of the Tennessee Bar Association.

Legal Aid Society

of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlandands

1-800-238-1443

It's a free call.

On the internet at: www.las.org

This cannot take the place of legal advice. Each case is different. If you need advice, talk to a lawyer.

Can't stay in your rented home or apartment because of the flood?

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Davidson	Rutherford	Sumner
Madison	Sevier	Williamson
Maury	Shelby	Wilson
Montgomery		

Do you live in a county **on this list**? Then go to page 1.

Do you live in a Tennessee flood county that's **not** on this list? If so, keep reading this page.

How can I get help to rent another place?

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I have to move because of what the flood did to my place. Can I end the lease? Or do I have to pay rent until the lease is up?

It depends on your lease. If you have a lease, you have to do what it says. Look to see if it says anything about:

- Who decides if the place is too bad to live in after the flood
- What would make the lease end
- If you have to give the landlord a certain amount of time to fix the place
- If you have to keep paying rent even while you can't live there



How to get back the rent you already paid for the rest of the month

Send a letter to your landlord or manager. Give the address of your place that flooded. Say that you have to move because of the flood. Ask for the rest of the month's rent and your deposit back. Tell the landlord where to send the money. Keep a copy of your letter. Send your letter by certified mail at the Post Office. Ask to get back proof the landlord got it.



What if the landlord won't give back your money?

You can sue your landlord in General Sessions Civil Court. The Judge can order the landlord to pay. It's always better to have a lawyer. But you don't have to have one in this court. See our booklet called, "No Lawyer? You can speak for yourself in General Sessions Court." It's on the Internet at www.las.org.

What if your lease doesn't say anything about a flood or disaster? Or, what if you don't have a lease?

Your lease **ended** the day you moved out after your place was flooded. Even if you had no lease, **you don't owe any rent** after you move out. This is true only if the flood messed up your place very badly. Make sure you send a letter to your landlord after you move out. Tell your landlord you don't live there any more. Keep a copy of the letter. At the Post Office, send your letter by certified mail. Ask to get back proof the landlord got it.

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