



STEPS TO JUSTICE

HOUSING LAW

An OJEN workshop demonstrating a CLEO
public legal information resource.



CLEO

Community Legal Education Ontario
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario



True or false?

1. As a landlord, I can increase the rent whenever I want!
It's my property!



True or false?

2. My roommate and I are fighting – it's a good thing I can report them to the Landlord & Tenant Board!



True or false?

3. My potential landlord wants to know where I work, but it's none of his business! He can't demand that I tell him!



True or false?

4. I'm going to rent a place for \$1 100/month, but my landlord wants an additional rent deposit for \$1 000. I don't really want to pay, but it's totally legal.



True or false?

5. Ugh, my bedroom window is broken. Whatever – it's my landlord's duty to repair it!



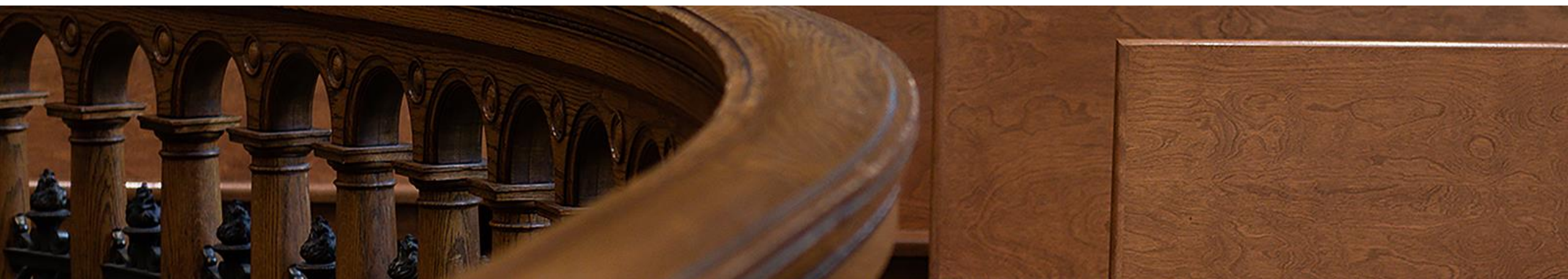
Housing Law in Ontario: *What is covered?*

- Discrimination and human rights in housing
- Eviction process at the Landlord and Tenant board
- Laws that protect tenants
- Moving out
- Renting a new place to live
- Paying rent
- Repairs and maintenance
- Privacy and harassment
- Tenant applications to the Landlord and Tenant board



Real Life Legal Problems *Demonstration Scenario*

My landlord is very rude to me and the other students who live in the apartment building he owns. He routinely yells at us over the phone and sends us emails threatening to raise the rent or have us kicked out if we do not clean the place. He is especially mean to the younger students. Last week, he came into our unit without warning and screamed at my roommate for leaving her laundry lying around. She broke down crying. This is too much!






Human Rights in Ontario

Human Rights Laws

Protect Ontarians against discrimination on the basis of things like:

- **Age**
- **Sex**
- **Gender**
- **Disability**
- **Race and ethnicity**
- **Religion and belief**

They deal with five important areas of life:

- **Services, goods and facilities**
 - **Housing**
 - **Contracts**
 - **Employment**
 - **Membership in vocational associations and trade unions**
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Steps to Justice



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Steps to Justice website. At the top left is the logo with the text "Steps to Justice" and "Your guide to law in Ontario". At the top right, there is a "HIDE THIS SITE" button, a language selector for "Français", and social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and RSS. Below the logo is a navigation menu with a search icon and links for "Legal Topics", "About Steps to Justice", "Latest Updates", and "Embed & Share". The main banner features a woman with curly hair and a blue jacket, with the text "Steps to Justice" in large orange letters, followed by "Step-by-step information about legal problems. Reliable, practical, and easy to understand." Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Tell us what you are looking for...". On the right side of the banner, there is a vertical stack of social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, Email, and a share icon. Below the banner is a "Legal Topics" section with a dark blue background and a list of topics: Abuse and Family Violence, Criminal Law, Debt and Consumer Rights, Employment and Work, Family Law, Health and Disability, Housing Law, Human Rights, Income Assistance, and Tribunals and Court. In the bottom right corner of the page, there is a live chat button with the text "Live chat Mon-Fri 11am-1pm".

Steps to Justice
Your guide to law in Ontario

HIDE THIS SITE

Français

Legal Topics About Steps to Justice Latest Updates Embed & Share


Steps to Justice
Step-by-step information about legal problems.
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Tell us what you are looking for...

Legal Topics

- Abuse and Family Violence
- Criminal Law
- Debt and Consumer Rights
- Employment and Work
- Family Law
- Health and Disability
- Housing Law
- Human Rights
- Income Assistance
- Tribunals and Court

Live chat
Mon-Fri 11am-1pm



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Some questions:

- What are some examples of harassment?
- What should this person do when they talk to the landlord about this problem?
- Why should this person talk to their neighbours?
- What government agency could this person contact for help if the harassment continues?
- What are some other resources that are available to tenants who feel they are being harassed by a landlord?



**Using the
Steps to Justice
Website**



Group Work

1. Navigate to the Steps to Justice website:
<http://stepstojustice.ca>
2. Read your scenario with your group.
3. Try to identify the main legal issues.
4. Imagine that you are the person in the scenario. Use the Steps to Justice website to answer the questions on your handout.
5. As you browse, try to find out more about how the law would affect the person in your scenario. What does it say? What are their options?
6. Record your answers on the handout.

If you get stuck, ask for help!



Large Group Scenario

FOCUS AREAS:

- 1) Accommodation of disability
- 2) Discrimination
- 3) Eviction

I have been renting in the same house for years. My landlord has always been super nice to me and the location is great: quiet, well-kept, and lots of pleasant neighbors. I am currently renting a room on the 2nd floor and I share the living room and kitchen with 3 other housemates.

A few months ago, I was hit by a car while crossing the street and suffered traumatic injuries to my back and tailbone. I am most likely going to be in a wheelchair for life. In order to enter the house, I would need the help of my housemates to lift me up the front and indoor stairs.

When I told the landlord what happened, he told me it would cost him too much money to put in ramps for my wheelchair. As a result, I used my own money to install a ramp on the front steps and an electronic stair lift that could bring me to the 2nd floor. The stair lift was quite expensive.

A few weeks ago, the landlord told me that some of my housemates have complained that the noise of my wheelchair on the ramp and the stair lift disturb their sleep. He said that he sympathizes with my disability, but he cannot allow my condition to interfere with my housemates' enjoyment of the home. He said if the disruption continues, he will evict me. This is causing me great anxiety – I do not want to be evicted for something I cannot control, especially from the home that I have grown so attached to.

