

# STEPS TO JUSTICE

## *HOUSING LAW ONLINE WORKSHOP*

An OJEN workshop demonstrating a CLEO  
public legal information resource.



**CLEO**

Community Legal Education Ontario  
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario

The image shows a close-up of a person's hand holding a pen, poised to write on a document. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange rectangle. The text 'Housing Law in Ontario: What is covered?' is written in white, with 'Housing Law in Ontario:' in a bold sans-serif font and 'What is covered?' in a script font.

## **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



# 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**
- 



## **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!



# Steps to Justice



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## Steps to Justice

Step-by-step information about legal problems.  
Reliable, practical, and easy to understand.

### 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.

