



April 29, 2020

**SUBJECT: Stable Housing for Older Adults during COVID-19**

Good Afternoon:

Consistent access to stable housing is critical to ensuring the health and safety of older adults during COVID-19. Fears of eviction, displacement, and harassment for those unable to afford rent as a result of COVID-19 have caused undue stress for many New Yorkers, with older adults being among the most vulnerable.

In response to these concerns, New York State Attorney General Letitia James has issued Statewide guidance highlighting enhanced protections and resources for tenants navigating challenges as a result of COVID-19. These resources are particularly important for older New Yorkers advised to remain in their homes amid the public health emergency. Critical information related to COVID-19 includes:

- Beginning March 20, 2020, **all evictions across New York State were suspended until June 19, 2020**, and the courts are not accepting any new eviction or foreclosure cases
- Landlords are prohibited from rent gouging by increasing rent in order to capitalize on the crisis
- Landlords cannot discriminate against or evict a tenant because the tenant, or someone the tenant lives with, has contracted or had COVID-19, or is suspected of having COVID-19
- Older adults and people with a physical, mental, or medical impairment, which may include a COVID-19 related illness, are protected from housing discrimination under the federal, state, and city laws

More information regarding housing and tenant rights, including enhanced protections in response to COVID-19 and resources for tenants who suspect their rights are being violated, can be found in the [New York State Attorney General Tenant Guidance for New Yorkers During Coronavirus Pandemic](#).

Thank you.

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Governor Cuomo has put NY on PAUSE: All non-essential workers are directed to work from home, and everyone is required to maintain a 6-foot distance from others in public. [Get the facts](#).