

How to Spot Tenant Harassment

You may have experienced tenant harassment if your landlord or someone they've hired has done the following:



Threatened you or used force against you

Examples can include: Your landlord shoves you ▪ Management verbally bullies you ▪ Someone is hired to walk around the hallways with a baseball bat ▪ You are physically or verbally intimidated in any way!



Misled you about your building or tenancy status

Examples can include: Your landlord tells you your apartment isn't rent stabilized when in fact it is ▪ Management tells you they obtained a permit for construction being performed, but that permit has actually been denied ▪ Your landlord intentionally lies to you about any other building status issue



Threatened you based on your age, race, religion, immigration status, or other identity

Examples can include: Management threatens to call Immigration Enforcement on an undocumented tenant ▪ Your landlord calls you a racial slur ▪ Your landlord sexually harasses you ▪ Your landlord tells you that you and your family have to move because they don't want children in the building anymore. They start to withhold repairs and make life uncomfortable for you and for other tenants with children.



Removed your possessions from your apartment

Examples can include: Management or people hired by management steal items from your apartment ▪ Your landlord enters your unit and takes your television, stating they have a right to do so since you're behind in rent



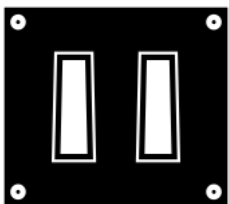
Removed your door, changed your lock, or made your lock unusable

Examples can include: Management takes your front door off its hinges and doesn't replace it ▪ Your landlord changes your locks without your permission and doesn't give you a new key (By the way, if this happens, call the police right away!)



Made repeated, intimidating, or unwanted buyout offers

Examples can include: Management threatens that if you don't accept their buyout offer, you'll be responsible for cleaning the building's common areas from then on ▪ Your landlord asks you about a buyout offer within 6 months after you informed them in writing that you don't want a buyout ▪ Your landlord verbally intimidates you when you say no to a buyout offer



Stopped providing essential services to you and to other tenants in the building

Examples can include: Throughout the winter there is frequently no heat or hot water, and management is not responsive to your complaints ▪ Management repeatedly cuts off your lights, water, or gas ▪ After construction, the water coming from your faucets is brown but your landlord says there is no problem and doesn't deal with it



Requested documentation that would disclose your citizenship status

Your landlord asks for a copy of your green card, passport, or other immigration documents ■ The landlord asks to see your NYS drivers license



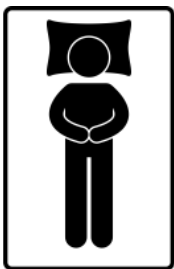
Didn't fix hazardous conditions in the building

Examples can include: A step in the main stairway is broken but your landlord refuses to fix it ■ There are rats in your apartment, but your landlord tells you to buy a cat instead of hiring an exterminator ■ Management refuses to abate the lead-based paint in your apartment, even though you live with children under 6 years-old. ■ Your landlord won't abate the black mold in your bathroom



Brought you (and maybe your neighbors, too) to court for baseless reasons

Examples can include: The landlord tries to evict you by bringing a case in Housing Court based on false accusations about your behavior ■ The landlord doesn't deposit your rent checks and brings an eviction case against you for not paying rent ■ Management doesn't credit your section 8 and brings you to court for your whole rent



Has done (or failed to prevent) anything that disturbs your comfort, peace, or quiet enjoyment of your apartment

Management regularly allows construction to occur late into the evening ■ Construction is not contained and dust and debris filter into your apartment ■ Your landlord does not address vermin infestations in the building

Take action to protect yourself and others

In your building, your landlord may need to apply for a Certificate of No Harassment before doing many kinds of construction.

If you have been harassed, taking action now means your landlord will be held accountable in the future.

You can:

- ▶ **Create a log of when the harassment occurs**
- ▶ **Call 311 to report harassment**
- ▶ **Contact your local tenant advocacy organization**



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