

**IllinoisLegalAid.org**

Helping Illinois Residents Solve their Legal Problems

**Resources for  
Housing Counselors**



**Amy Clark**

**Community Engagement Manager**

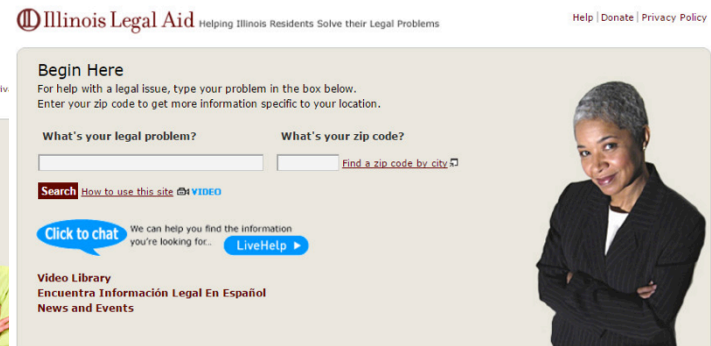
**Illinois Legal Aid Online**




# What is Illinois Legal Aid Online?

**Mission:** To increase access to justice for lower-income and vulnerable Illinois residents through the innovative use of technology

**Method:** 4 statewide websites, “click-to-chat” instant message service, online triage and intake for 4 legal aid programs, and 102 self-help centers throughout the state




# IllinoisLegalAid.org Demo

 **Illinois Legal Aid** Helping Illinois Residents Solve their Legal Problems [Help](#) | [Donate](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

**Begin Here**  
For help with a legal issue, type your problem in the box below.  
Enter your zip code to get more information specific to your location.


**What's your legal problem?**

**What's your zip code?**  [Find a zip code by city](#)

**Search** [How to use this site](#)  **VIDEO**

**Click to chat** We can help you find the information you're looking for.. [LiveHelp](#)

**Video Library**  
**Encuentra Información Legal En Español**  
**News and Events**



# Security Deposit Resources on IllinoisLegalAid.org

“Getting My Security Deposit Back” interview

Getting your security deposit back (Chicago)

Getting your security deposit back (outside of Chicago)

Security deposit article (what it is, how much the landlord can charge, when the landlord has to give it back)

The screenshot shows the Illinois Legal Aid website interface. At the top, the logo and tagline 'Helping Illinois Residents Solve their Legal Problems' are visible, along with links for 'Help', 'Donate', and 'Privacy Policy'. A search bar contains the text 'What's your legal problem?' and 'What's your zip code?' with a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, it indicates 'You searched for security deposit in 62201'. The 'Search Results' section features a 'Click to chat' button and a 'LiveHelp' button. The search results are listed under the heading 'Articles matching your search for security deposit'. A yellow banner provides a tip: 'Too many results? You may get narrower results by wrapping keywords in quotation marks. For example, if you search for child custody, you may get better results if you search for "child custody."' Below this, the results are numbered 1 through 5. The first result is 'Getting My Security Deposit Back', which is circled in red. The second result is 'Getting Your Security Deposit Back in Chicago'. The third and fourth results are 'Getting Your Security Deposit Back (5 or more apartments)' and 'Getting Your Security Deposit Back (4 or fewer apartments)'. The fifth result is 'Renter's Guide to Security Deposits'. Navigation links for 'Articles 1 - 5 of 228' and 'Results per page: 5 10 25 50' are shown at the bottom of the results list.

Illinois Legal Aid Helping Illinois Residents Solve their Legal Problems Help | Donate | Privacy Policy

What's your legal problem? What's your zip code? Search

You searched for security deposit in 62201

Search Results Click to chat We can help you find the information you're looking for... LiveHelp

Articles matching your search for security deposit

Too many results? You may get narrower results by wrapping keywords in quotation marks. For example, if you search for child custody, you may get better results if you search for "child custody."

Articles 1 - 5 of 228 | < Prev | Next > | Results per page: 5 10 25 50

1. **Getting My Security Deposit Back**  
Explains how to get a security deposit back after you move out of an apartment.
2. **Getting Your Security Deposit Back in Chicago** [GUIDE ME](#) [Text only]  
Information and forms to help you get your security deposit back from your landlord in Chicago
3. **Getting Your Security Deposit Back (5 or more apartments)** [GUIDE ME](#) [Text only]  
Explains how to get your security deposit back from your landlord in Illinois if your building has 5 or more apartments
4. **Getting Your Security Deposit Back (4 or fewer apartments)** [GUIDE ME](#) [Text only]  
Explains how to get your security deposit back from your landlord in Illinois if your building has 4 or fewer apartments
5. **Renter's Guide to Security Deposits**  
Information about security deposits, the purpose of them, standard security deposit amounts and how to get your deposit returned

Articles 1 - 5 of 228 | < Prev | Next > | Results per page: 5 10 25 50

Find resources using search term “security deposit”

# Security Deposit Resources on IllinoisLegalAid.org

The screenshot displays the Illinois Legal Aid website interface. At the top, the logo reads "Illinois Legal Aid Helping Illinois Residents Solve their Legal Problems" with links for "Help | Donate | Privacy Policy". A search bar prompts users with "What's your legal problem?" and "What's your zip code?". The main article title is "Getting Your Security Deposit Back (4 or fewer apartments)", last updated in December 2007. A "Click to chat" bubble and a "LiveHelp" button are visible. A navigation menu includes "Introduction", "Common Questions", "Forms/Letters", "Instructions" (highlighted with a red circle), and "Related Articles". A "Ver en Espanol" link is also present.

**Select from the 13 questions below:**

1. [Does this law apply to me?](#)
2. [Can my landlord keep my security deposit?](#)
3. [Does the landlord have to send me a written statement of damage?](#)
4. [When must the landlord return the security deposit?](#)
5. [Does the landlord have to pay interest?](#)
6. [Should I sue?](#)
7. [What amount can I sue for?](#)
8. [Is there a fee to file a lawsuit?](#)
9. [What happens if my landlord is not present in court on the return date?](#)
10. [On the return date my case was set for trial, what can I expect?](#)
11. [What happens after the trial?](#)

**Select from the 11 steps below:**

1. [Clean Your Apartment](#)
2. [Take Photos and Do a Walk-Through](#)
3. [Return Keys and Provide New Address](#)
4. [Send a Letter to Your Landlord](#)
5. [Wait 45 Days for the Landlord to Return Your Security Deposit](#)
6. [Get Information about Your Landlord, Building Owner and Building Manager](#)
7. [Prepare Your Forms](#)
8. [Determine in Which County You Should File Your Case](#)
9. [File Your Complaint with the Clerk's Office](#)
10. [Serve the Defendants with the Summons](#)
11. [Go to Your Court Date](#)

The “Getting Your Security Deposit Back” Guide Me provides general info about security deposits, answers common questions, provides links to create a demand letter and complaint

# Security Deposit Resources on [IllinoisLegalAid.org](http://IllinoisLegalAid.org)

The screenshot shows the Illinois Legal Aid website interface. At the top left is the logo and tagline "Illinois Legal Aid Helping Illinois Residents Solve their Legal Problems". At the top right are links for "Help | Donate | Privacy Policy". Below this is a search bar with the text "What's your legal problem?" and "What's your zip code?" followed by a "Search" button. The main content area features the article title "Getting Your Security Deposit Back (4 or fewer apartments)" with a "Click to chat" bubble and a "LiveHelp" button. Below the title is the text "Last updated: December 2007" and a "Ver en Espanol" link. A navigation bar contains five buttons: "Introduction", "Common Questions", "Forms/Letters", "Instructions", and "Related Articles". The main text of the article reads: "You may use these forms and instructions to help you solve your problem. To find out where to file court forms and if there are any fees to file the forms, check with your county Circuit Clerk. To find out how to contact your Circuit Clerk, visit the [Illinois Courts'](#) website." Below this text is a bulleted list of two links: "Security Deposit Demand Letter for Buildings with 4 or Less Units A2J" and "Security Deposit Complaint for Buildings with 4 or Less Units A2J".

Use interactive interview programs to auto-create:

- Demand letter to landlord; or
- Complaint to sue for the return of security deposit

# Other Housing Resources on IllinoisLegalAid.org

What's your legal problem?

What's your zip code?

You searched for **habitability** in **Illinois**

## Search Results

[Click to email](#)

We can help you find the information you're looking for ...

[LiveHelp](#) ▶

Articles matching your search for **habitability**

Articles **1 - 4 of 4** | [< Prev](#) | [Next >](#) | Results per page: [5](#) [10](#) [25](#) [50](#)

1. **[Do I Have to Pay Rent if My Landlord Doesn't Make Repairs?](#)**

Explaining how to use an unsatisfactory residence as a defense to a landlord's claim of rent owed

2. **[Can I Force My Landlord to Make Repairs on My Property Without Going to Court?](#)**

Describes how you can make your landlord repair your apartment

3. **[Can My Landlord Collect Unpaid Rent or Damages After I Vacate the Property?](#)**

Information for tenants about how to fight a lawsuit brought by a former landlord to collect rent or repair costs

4. **[There Is a Problem With the Condition of My Apartment](#)**

Information for when there are problems with the conditions in your apartment

Articles **1 - 4 of 4** | [< Prev](#) | [Next >](#) | Results per page: [5](#) [10](#) [25](#) [50](#)

## Information about issues with apartment conditions

# Other Housing Resources on IllinoisLegalAid.org

The screenshot shows the Illinois Legal Aid website interface. At the top left is the logo and text "Illinois Legal Aid Helping Illinois Residents Solve their Legal Problems". Below this is a search bar with the text "What's your legal problem?". Underneath the search bar, it says "You searched for **toolbox** in **Illinois**".

The main content area is titled "Search Results" and shows "Articles matching your search for **toolbox**". There are two articles listed:

1. **Foreclosure Help Toolbox: Illinois Homeowners** (with a video icon) - This toolbox offers resources on avoiding mortgage foreclosure, the rights of homeowners, and how to deal with a foreclosure.
2. **Foreclosure Help Toolbox: Illinois Renters** - The renter's toolbox helps tenants learn their rights during and after a foreclosure.

At the bottom of the search results, it says "Articles 1 - 2 of 2 | < Prev | Next > | Results per page: 5 10 25 50".

An arrow points from the second search result to a larger, detailed view of the "Foreclosure Help Toolbox: Illinois Renters" page. This page has a blue "Click" button in the top right corner. It is titled "Foreclosure Help Toolbox: Illinois Renters" and has a "Last updated: October 2013" note. The main heading is "When Your Landlord is in Foreclosure". The text below reads: "This toolbox provides renters with information on the foreclosure process, including your rights during the foreclosure process, what to do if you are evicted because of foreclosure, and a timeline of events. For more information, see:"

- [Tenants and Foreclosure](#) (Teach Me)
- [My Landlord Was Sued for Mortgage Foreclosure](#)
- [Tenants In Foreclosure](#) (Brochure)
- [Foreclosure Fact Sheet for Renters](#)
- [Foreclosure Timeline for Renters](#)

The next section is titled "After Moving Out". The text reads: "An eviction can appear on your credit history even if the eviction was caused by your landlord going into foreclosure. You can keep banks and future landlords from seeing that eviction by getting the record of your eviction sealed or hidden by the court. For more information, see:"

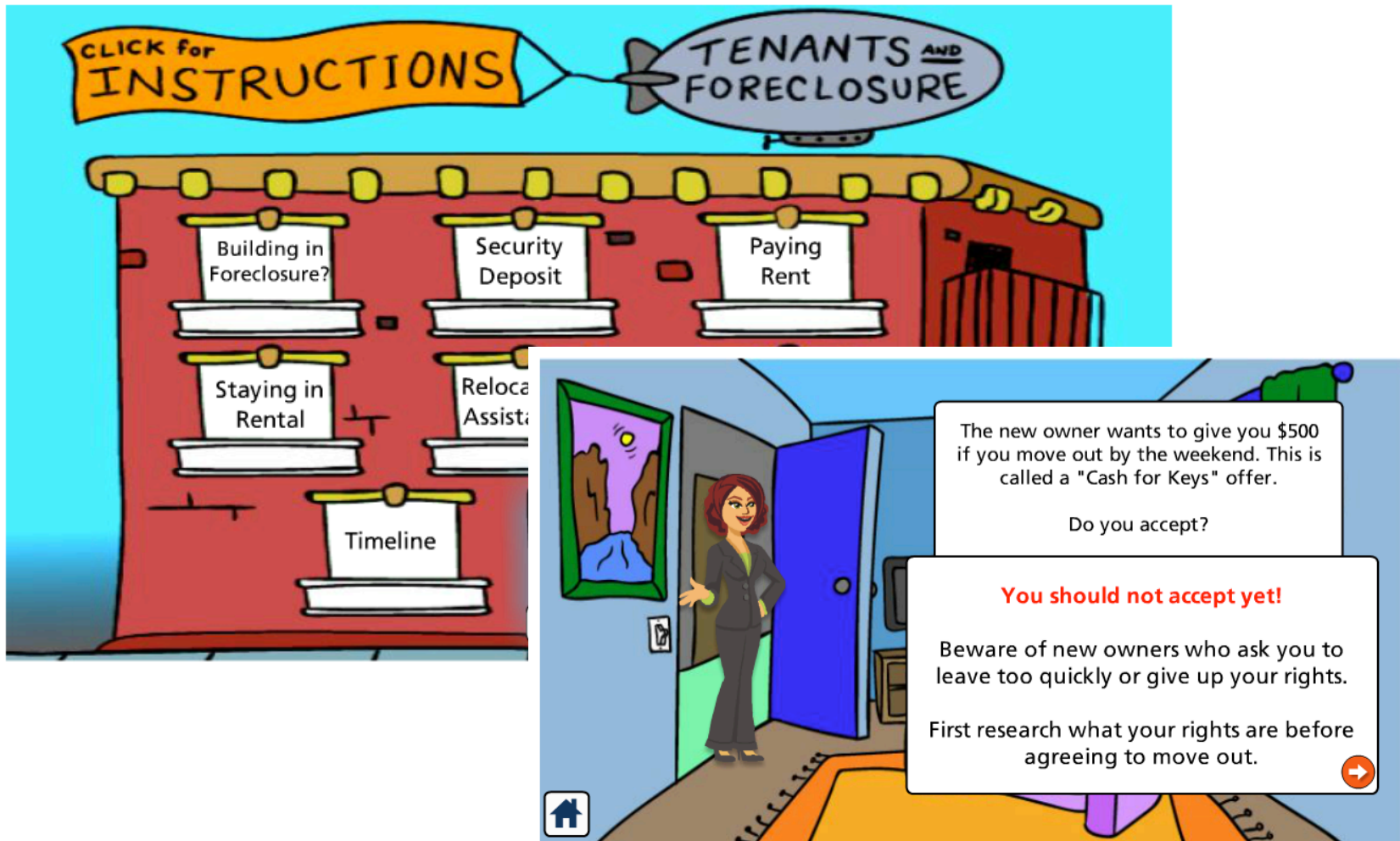
- [Sealing an Eviction When My Landlord Was Foreclosed](#)

Foreclosure “Toolboxes” for:

- Renters
- Homeowners (videos)



# Other Housing Resources on [IllinoisLegalAid.org](http://IllinoisLegalAid.org)



## Tenants and Foreclosure “Teach Me”

# Other Housing Resources on [IllinoisLegalAid.org](http://IllinoisLegalAid.org)



Missed Payment 2 MONTHS 3 MONTHS

1 MONTH

This is Lou the Lender. Is this Joe?

How should I answer?

Yes, this is Joe.

No, Joe isn't home.

1 MONTH Lender Notices 3 MONTHS 4 MONTHS

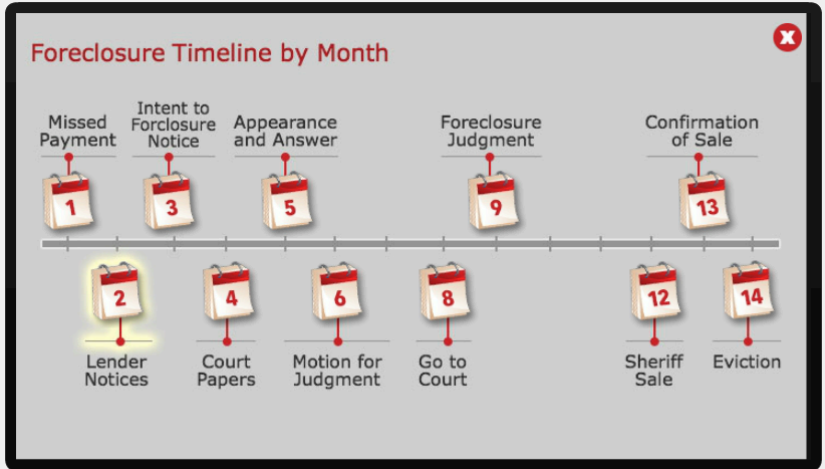
2 MONTHS

Month 2 SUMMARY

Once Joe is 120 days behind, the lender can file a foreclosure on his home. Meanwhile, the lender can call Joe and send him written notices about his past due balance.

Joe does not have to move out of his home yet. Only the judge can order him to move out.

Next



## Foreclosure Process for Homeowners

# Other Resources on [IllinoisLegalAid.org](http://IllinoisLegalAid.org)

## Other housing content:

- Housing discrimination (how to file a complaint)
- Homelessness
- Subsidized housing
- Eviction
- Senior Citizens Handbook (homeowner rights)

## Other resources for your clients:

- Health Care
- Family Law
- Public Benefits
- Information on going to court

## Browse Articles

Click to email We can help you find the information you're looking for ... [LiveHelp](#)

Find legal information for Illinois. Choose a topic below to get started.

### Browse by Type

#### Video Library

#### Accidents & Injuries

Lawsuits, personal injury, property damage, suing someone, being sued

#### Arts & Entertainment

Copyright, publishing, producing, contracts

#### Children

Adoption, child abuse & neglect, juvenile court, minor guardianship, parental rights

#### Civil Rights

Rights to privacy and medical records, criminal law, searches and seizures

#### Consumer Law

Automobiles, bankruptcy, credit, debt collection, small claims court, utilities, insurance, identity theft

#### Criminal Law

Your rights during a criminal investigation, right to a lawyer, victim's rights, how to clear a criminal record

#### Disability

Disability discrimination, medical benefits, Rehabilitation Act, protections, services

#### Education

Special education, school records, student loans, school disciplinary actions, discrimination, fees

#### Environmental Law

Environmental justice issues, IL EPA, CERCLA and RCRA claims

#### Family Law

Adoptions, child support, custody, divorce, domestic violence, paternity, visitation

#### General Resources

People affected by natural disasters, lawyer issues, self help information, representing yourself

#### Going to Court

Representing yourself, small claims court, remedies, court costs, judgments, appeals

#### Health Care

Health insurance, Power of Attorney, Medicaid, Medicare, nursing homes

#### Housing

Federal housing programs, homeownership, housing discrimination, landlord/tenant law

#### Human Rights

Economic and cultural rights, family integrity, non-discrimination

#### Immigration

Asylum, USCIS procedures, Visas, U-Visa, T-Visa, VAWA

#### Licenses

Auto licenses, gun licenses

#### Life Planning

Guardianship, powers of attorney, estate planning, probate, wills

#### Management & Operations

Management issues, operations, staff training, LSC issues, communications, and marketing

#### Migrants & Rural Issues

Migrant workers, farm loan programs, agricultural issues

#### Prisoners' Rights

Civil Rights, prison conditions

#### Pro Bono Practice

court rules on pro bono, pro bono support, being a volunteer

#### Pro Se Delivery

Access to justice, advice desks, legal self help centers, trends in pro se delivery

#### Public Benefits

Food stamps, Social Security/SSI, veterans/military, welfare

#### Senior Citizens

Guardianship, powers of attorney, trusts, wills, health care, benefits programs, insurance, housing, consumer, discrimination

#### Small Business

Forming and dissolving businesses, non-profits, economic development, entrepreneurship

#### Taxes

Income taxes, Earned Income Credit, property taxes

#### Technology

Accessibility, Technology & Delivery of Legal Services, Training Resources, Technology Tips and Tools

#### Traffic

Traffic laws for motor vehicles, traffic court, how to contest traffic tickets

#### Veterans' Issues

Benefits for veterans and their families, medical assistance, and protections for military service members.

#### Voting

Voting, Voting Rights Act, Voting Systems, Districting

#### Work

Employment discrimination, employment law, collecting unemployment and workers compensation



**Questions?**

**Contact Info:**

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