

Legal Services of New Jersey
100 Metroplex Drive at Plainfield Avenue
P.O. Box 1357
Edison, New Jersey 08818-1357

Contact: Harvey Fisher
Office Phone: 732-529-8430
Cell Phone: 908-616-9941
Email: hfisher@lsnj.org

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**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON TENANT
CONFIDENTIALITY IN COVID-ERA EVICTION MATTERS**

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) centers on what the courts and landlords can say about a tenant’s history and related matters during the thousands of rental payment disputes evolving during the pandemic period from March 2020 to April 2021.

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org.

The LSNJ newsletter also features an article spelling out the rights of siblings under a law enacted in January that requires the state to protect and nurture relationships with brothers and sisters while a child is placed in foster care. That includes keeping them as close together as possible. Additionally a child in foster care is now entitled to participate in the decision-making process about where their siblings are to be placed in foster care.

The tenant confidentiality requirements largely are spelled out in separate laws stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The statutes restrict information available through courts and what landlords can say about the tenant in the rental-related dispute.

Specifically, a landlord cannot share confidential information with other landlords or debt collection and credit reporting agencies, among others, in rental disputes that occurred between March 1, 2020 and April 31 2021.

For matters outside that time frame, landlord-tenant cases are available to the public until a resolution is reached. The outcome then determines whether restrictions will apply.

Another article in the monthly publication lays out the expungement process for people who may have innocently wound up with criminal records resulting from the actions of those who stole their identities.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations that provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people in all 21 counties.

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