

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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September 2023

**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON KEY RIGHTS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TENANTS BEFORE EVICTION TRIALS**

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) centers on what tenants need to know and do in preparation for eviction trials.

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

The eviction process encompasses changes made by the New Jersey Supreme Court in 2021 and further adjustments that took effect at the beginning of September. Tenants are advised—it is extremely important that they seek advance legal assistance as soon as possible to better understand and deal with various stages of the process, especially knowing in advance of the strengths and weaknesses of their case.

Case management conferences, designed to narrow down the issues before trial, are mandatory and are held on the same date as the scheduled trial. Most trials are in-person, but judges, based on circumstances, may permit remote participation by computer or telephone.

Getting legal assistance in advance is particularly important when tenants in the process have to fill out what’s called a “Tenant Case Information Statement,” which requires the tenant

to spell out the legal reason the landlord cannot evict. Tenants who are in the process of applying for rental assistance may be eligible for up to a 60-day adjournment of the trial date.

Information about applying for rental assistance and related matters is available at www.lsnjlaw.org/legal-topics/housing/homelessness/pages/rental-assistance-programs.aspx.

The current newsletter also includes articles explaining the various type and causes of driver's license suspensions, rights against discrimination of LGBTQI and HIV+ residents in long-term care facilities, and some situations where children can remain in a school district even after the family has moved elsewhere because of "family crisis" situations.

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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