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Cleveland Heights Wants Low-Rent Tenants To Take Classes

Critic: 'Good Tenant' Classes Could Violate Rights, Privacy

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CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, Ohio -- The city of Cleveland Heights said it plans to require low-income renters who get federal aid to attend classes on how to be a good tenant.

According to Mayor Ed Kelley, the class would include instructions on curfews, noise, pets and street parking. He wants the county housing authority to cut off rent payments if tenants don't attend.

Suburban officials said they're worried about a rise in crime and other problems associated with poverty.

Housing Authority Director George Phillips said he's studying the proposal but doesn't want Section 8 renters stigmatized.

Attorney Peter Iskin, who oversees housing cases for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, said forcing low-income renters to go to the class may constitute discrimination and could violate their right to privacy.

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