***Sample language for suburban Cuyahoga County municipal courts’ websites –***

**Need Legal Help with an Eviction?**

[The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland’s Housing Justice Alliance](https://lasclev.org/) works to ensure fairness for low-income people who face housing instability.  Legal Aid - serving Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties – provides free legal representation for tenants facing eviction.

Everyone is familiar with the Miranda rights thanks to television crime shows - “You have the right to an attorney.” Our constitution ensures access to no-cost legal counsel when someone is accused of a serious crime and cannot afford an attorney. Yet many do not realize there is no such constitutional right to legal counsel in housing cases — *even if the cases lead to homelessness.*

Legal Aid, a private nonprofit, works to help as many people as possible with eviction cases. Now, thanks to COVID-19 federal funding via Cuyahoga County, there are more resources available for more people to get legal representation from Legal Aid. For our community, [Legal Aid](https://lasclev.org/) is working together with [United Way](https://unitedwaycleveland.org/) to do outreach and provide help to people facing eviction.

**Are you facing an eviction? Do you need legal help?** [**Contact Legal Aid!**](https://lasclev.org/)

**Call:**  216-861-5835

*Monday, Wednesday & Fridays: 9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.*

*Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.*

**Go Online:**  [www.FreeEvictionHelp.org](http://www.FreeEvictionHelp.org)

  *available 24/7*

**Just have a quick question?** Legal Aid can also help people with quick housing questions via its [Tenant Information Line](https://lasclev.org/tenantinfoline/). Learn more at [www.lasclev.org/tenantinfoline](http://www.lasclev.org/tenantinfoline) or call 216-861-5955.

**Why is Legal Help Important?**

Housing is a basic human need and the starting point for economic opportunity. A safe, stable home serves as a foundation for healthy families and is the nexus of thriving communities. Yet, too many families living in poverty are being evicted. For instance, in Cuyahoga County - there are an estimated 20,000 evictions annually.  An eviction can be devastating for a family. Research shows that unstable housing circumstances such as homelessness, multiple moves, and rent strain are associated with adverse health outcomes for caregivers and young children. These adverse health outcomes include maternal depression, increased child lifetime hospitalizations, poor child overall health, and poor caregiver health.

Studies show that tenants who receive full legal representation in eviction cases are more likely to stay in their homes and save on rent or fees. When tenants have full legal representation in an eviction case, they can participate meaningfully in the eviction proceedings and achieve better outcomes.

**A Local Injustice with a Scalable Solution**

In July 2020, the City of Cleveland became the 4th city in the United States to create a “right to counsel” in certain eviction cases. A right to counsel in eviction cases can help many people overcome barriers to employment and economic opportunity. It may not guarantee that every eviction will be avoided, because some evictions are lawful. However, it could ensure that a significant number of low-income people who should not be evicted are not, and that those who need to move can do so with a soft landing.

With free, high-quality legal representation from Legal Aid, Northeast Ohio families living in poverty and facing eviction can secure safe, affordable and stable housing.