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Agenda

• Overview

• Effective Community Partnerships around Evictions:
  • Lee Patterson, Richland County Library (SC)
  • Joe Schottenfeld, NAACP

• Open Q&A – Prevention, Tenants’ Rights, Legal Reference – Eviction, Marketing & Advocacy

• Wrap Up
WebJunction’s Eviction Resources

Eviction Resources for Libraries

WebJunction | 15 November 2021

Housing insecurity is widespread, in part due to pandemic impacts of months of unemployment and related financial stress. The civil legal process of eviction is complex, confusing to renters and landlords alike. These experiencing eviction can have difficulty finding safe and decent housing options, become separated from families, jobs, and schools, and face poor health outcomes. (Cost of Eviction Summary Report). The effects of eviction can be far-reaching and long-lasting.

Libraries are well-positioned to provide access to legal information—particularly helpful during the early phases of the eviction process. By leveraging their reference skills and partnering with law librarians and legal aid services, library staff can help patrons understand their options and navigate legal services. As part of the InSpires Access to Civil Legal Justice initiative, OCLC’s WebJunction is partnering with the Legal Services Corporation to collect these resources that focus on strengthening library staffs ability to respond to eviction questions with confidence.

Upcoming Events

November 18 webinar: Understanding Eviction and How Libraries Can Help
Join this webinar to understand the current state of the eviction crisis, recognize the basic stages of the process, and discuss options for preventing evictions through rental assistance. With presenters Kristel Wong, Financial Analyst, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and Rent Content Lead, Federal Housing Help Portal, and Deb Hamilton, Strategic Services Librarian, Mesa-Phoenix Library District (CO).

Key Resources

Five Phases of Eviction
While the details of the eviction process are determined by state, county or local laws, the general phases of eviction are consistent. This document provides an excellent overview, with particular attention to the earlier phases when eviction is more preventable. For background information on the eviction process in the courts, see LSC briefs: A Common Story: The Eviction Process in Shelby County, TN; and The Right to Evict: Trends in Evictions under State and Federal Jurisdictions.

Glossary of Eviction Terms
The Glossary of Eviction Terms defines key terms in the eviction process in plain English.

CPR: Resources: Renting Patrons with Rental Assistance
This job aid on CPR resources is for library staff assisting patrons (both renters and landlords) who are inquiring about or applying for rental assistance through the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance (FERA) program.

Courses: Creating Pathways to Civil Legal Justice
If legal reference is new to you, WebJunction offers a series of four self-paced courses that will strengthen your knowledge and ability to help identify when there is a civil legal issue at play and how to direct library users to relevant, helpful information and services. These courses, developed as part of the Access to Civil Legal Justice initiative, are foundational for providing reference on eviction issues.

Finding Local Information

Housing and Eviction Resources
These national organizations provide search tools to identify local resources related to housing and eviction.

CFTF Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: Find rental assistance programs in your area
Search for the state, county, and/or city programs that apply to the renters or landlord’s community.

HFS ILD: Department of Housing and Urban Development
Housing Contacts
Call the interactive voice system or search for a local housing counseling agency to get free or low-cost advice to buy a home, renting, default, foreclosure assistance, credit scores or reverse mortgages.

Rental Assistance
Find rental assistance in your state.

Legal Aid
Provides a search tool to locate community agencies that are working to prevent affordable housing, prevent evictions, and reduce family homelessness.

If you cannot find any program in your area, call 2-1-1 or your local housing authority for assistance.

Housing Help for Special Populations

U.S. Department of Housing
Find housing resources targeted to certain audience groups including seniors and Native Americans.

VA Assistance to Help Avoid Eviction
Special focus for veterans struggling to pay rent, utilities, or other housing costs. Also, find Free Legal Clinics near you on the VA Office of General Counsel’s website.

Legal Assistance

LawHelp.org
Find free legal aid programs by state, most state legal aid agencies will have resources addressing housing and evictions.

American Bar Association
City and state search tools to find free legal aid or lawyer internets. Connect the self-help office or the city at your local court; some will have navigation programs or a referral desk and will likely welcome the library’s assistance in getting accurate eviction information into people’s hands.

Eviction and Moratoria Statistics

Legal Aid Resource Network (LARN) Eviction Tracker
Provides access to links of third-party online eviction websites and related information for 100 countries in 22 states across the United States. Use the LARN Eviction Tracker to explore trends in your area.

Eviction Lab Tracker
Track weekly eviction filings data since March 2020 for 6 states and 31 cities.
Phases of Eviction

Overview of the Formal Legal Eviction Process

Notice  Filing  Hearing  Judgment  Eviction

* The legal process of eviction varies greatly by location; this exhibit provides an overview of the key stages of the process.

The Importance of Prevention

- Connecting patrons to ERAP is very helpful
- Once an eviction is filed it generally moves quickly through the courts
- Providing information on laws and rights can help prevent evictions
- Providing access to legal assistance is key
Richland Library & South Carolina NAACP Housing Navigator Program

Navigators and Librarians

Lee Patterson
Joe Schottenfeld
Legal and nonlegal needs

- Civil justice issues are almost always symptoms of underlying economic problems—they can be resolved legally or through nonlegal assistance
- The law can be complicated, legal processes opaque
- Most people facing eviction (or other civil justice issues) don’t know where to turn for assistance
- They go to people they trust—social workers, healthcare providers, friends, librarians.
Navigator Program Snapshot

- Launched in February
- So far, helped nearly 200 housing insecure individuals
- More than 60 housing navigators
- Array of partnerships with local providers and national organizations
Interventions

- Navigator program looks to pick up on a variety of best practices
  - Even though not directly court-adjacent, draw from court-based programs
  - E.g. NYC navigators who provide legal information and help prep tenants facing evictions for hearing; sit with tenants at table
- But also reaching those in need before—and beyond—the courtroom
  - Drawing here from more informal community navigators, like social workers, or even SBA navigators
  - Spot mixture of legal and economic issues, refer appropriately
Thank you to our Partners!
Final thoughts

- WebJunction courses: oc.lc/civil-legal-course
- Eviction Resource page: oc.lc/eviction-resources
Thank you!

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