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**Dear New Yorker,**

The contract between a tenant and landlord, whether it is based on a written lease or a handshake, is one of the most common and important deals that are made across our state. It defines how renters will enjoy their homes, how owners will maintain their property, it can affect a neighborhood's stability.



**Letitia James**  
Attorney General

That's why it's important that everyone understands their rights and responsibilities under the law. In New York State, there are several different laws governing this relationship, and they can be different depending upon the county or town you live in. This booklet explains many of the laws tenants need to know and provides resources for where you can find more information about landlord and tenant issues.

As Attorney General, it's my job to protect the rights of all New Yorkers. Whether the issue involves civil rights or consumer affairs, healthcare or investment fraud — we may be able to help. To learn more,, contact us at:

[www.ag.ny.gov](http://www.ag.ny.gov) | 800-771-7755

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Letitia James".

Letitia James

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