

## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

### RESIDENTIAL FORCIBLE ENTRY AND DETAINER (EVICTION) INFORMATION SHEET AND MEDIATION REQUEST

- You have been served with an eviction complaint and a summons with your court date.
- If you do not attend court on the date your case is scheduled, you will likely have to move out of your home.

#### **Help is available:**

#### **Help paying rent:**

Contact MaineHousing at: [www.mainehousing.org/covidrent](http://www.mainehousing.org/covidrent) or by calling 1-800-452-4668. You can apply online or through a Community Action Agency on the MaineHousing website. If you are eligible for help with rent, you may also be able to get help paying utility bills, getting housing counseling services, help to move, and other services to help you keep stable housing.

#### **Legal Help to Prevent Eviction:**

- Attorney Help - If you qualify, you might be able to get free legal help from Pine Tree Legal Assistance or Legal Services for the Elderly.
- Legal Services for the Elderly - Free for those 60 and older: Call 1-800-750-5353.
- Pine Tree Legal Assistance (PTLA) - Hotline hours are Monday 12:00 – 2:30, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 – 11:30. Call 207-774-8211.
- Information Sessions: PTLA holds free weekly eviction information sessions on Tuesdays at 9:00 am. Go to [ptla.org/fed](http://ptla.org/fed) for phone or internet/video options to learn more about the eviction process in Maine.

#### **Housing Counseling Help:**

Housing counseling services are available from organizations at the following:

<https://apps.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm?webListAction=search&searchstate=ME>

#### **Court Process:**

- **You must attend your court hearing date on the summons.** The summons says when and how to appear in eviction court for a court hearing, and if it will be in person or by video or phone. If you do not attend your hearing date you may be evicted.
- **You can ask for mediation. Mediation can help to settle your case.** The judge might order your case to mediation before hearing the case. To ask for mediation, you must use the Request for Mediation Form.
- **Questions:** If you have questions please contact the court at the number on the summons.

**ADA Notice:** The Maine Judicial Branch complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation contact the Court Access Coordinator, [accessibility@courts.maine.gov](mailto:accessibility@courts.maine.gov), or a court clerk.

**Language Services:** For language assistance and interpreters, contact a court clerk or [interpreters@courts.maine.gov](mailto:interpreters@courts.maine.gov)

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**Mediation in Eviction Cases:**

Either party may ask for mediation, or a judge may refer the case to mediation.

**What is mediation?**

In mediation, a person approved by the court tries to help the parties come to an agreement. This person is called a mediator and is trained to help parties explore solutions without taking sides. Some options for agreement are: a plan for rent payment to keep a tenant in the rented home, setting a move-out date, or some other solution that the tenant and landlord both agree to. Mediation is held on Zoom by video or phone, or in person.

**Who will be there?**

The mediator, **you**, your lawyer if you have one, **the other party** and the other party’s lawyer if they have one. Others might also be present for support.

**How to ask for mediation:**

If you would like to mediate your case, send or bring the Request for Mediation form below to the court.

**REQUEST FOR MEDIATION**

I would like mediation in my case.

I am  the defendant (tenant).  the plaintiff (landlord).

My Name is (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the other party listed on the summons and complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of rental property: \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge, the other party’s cell phone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge, the other party’s email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal information in this form will be used only for court purposes and will not be shared with the public.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_



Signature

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