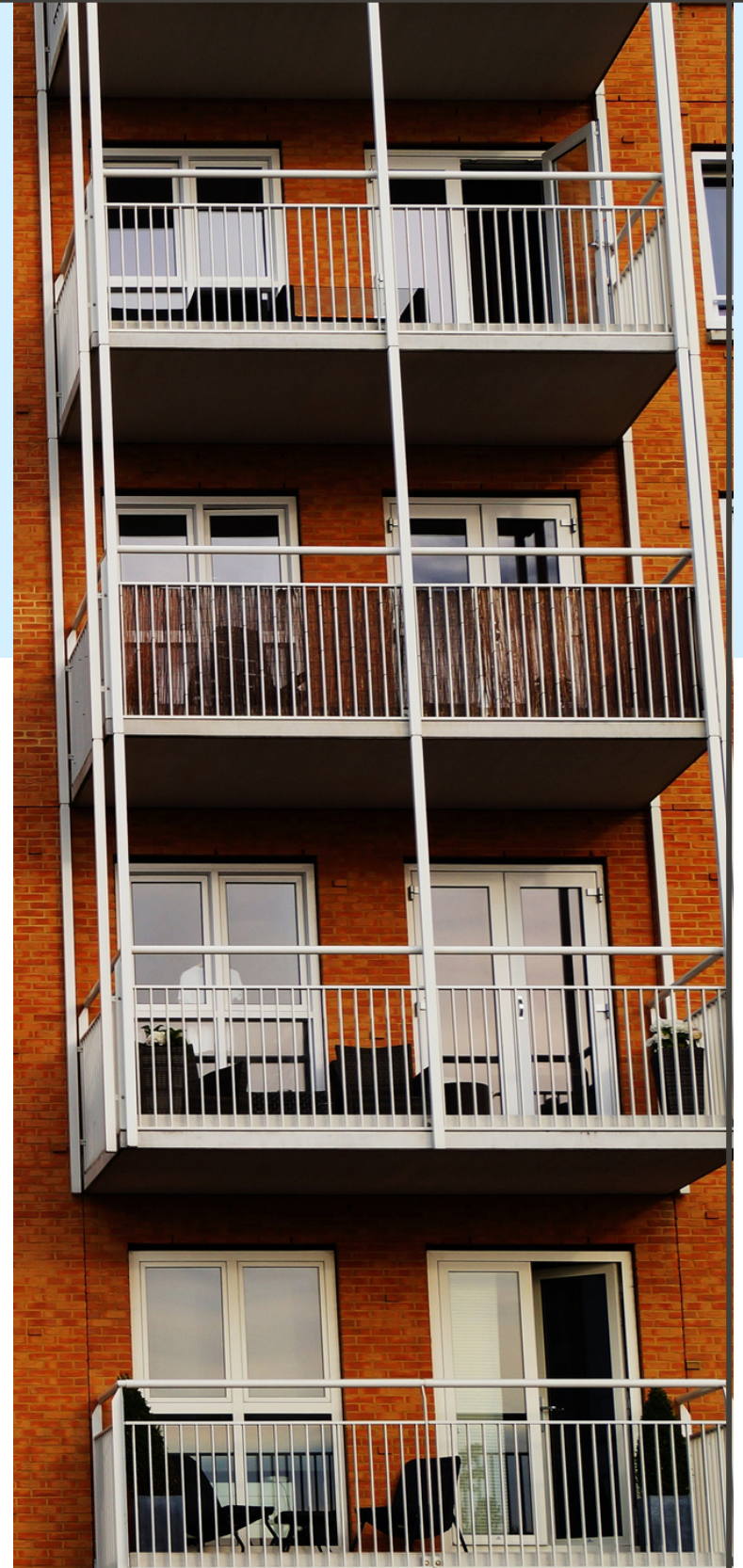


What to know about Eviction, the Moratorium, and Violence in Virginia

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Supreme Court Rulings Against Eviction Moratoriums



On September 3rd, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the national Eviction Moratorium that was set to extend until October was unlawful and would be overturned.

While the CDC has issued further eviction bans, these apply only to select areas where infection rates are high and may not protect most renters.

This means that an estimated 3.5 million individuals are at risk for foreclosure or eviction from their homes.

Evictions as Violence

Evicting people from their homes is a violation of their unalienable human right to shelter and safety. Houselessness disproportionately affects POC and Queer People, and exacerbates the everyday violence faced by marginalized groups.

Unhoused individuals face not only interpersonal violence, but are subjected to the elements and to hunger, stress, and depression, an act of violence against their bodies and minds.

Unhoused individuals are disproportionately more likely to be profiled, harassed, criminalized and assaulted by law enforcement for merely existing in public or seeking aid.

Becoming unhoused during a pandemic means a drastically higher risk of becoming infected by and transmitting COVID.

Evictions as Violence: Statistics

- 40%+ of unhoused youth identify as LGBTQ+
- 38% of unhoused people ID as Transgender
- Unhoused LGBTQ+ people are 7x more likely to experience violence, sexual assault or trafficking
- African Americans represent ~15% of the U.S. population, yet make up 40% of unhoused individuals
- Unhoused women with mental illnesses have a 97% lifetime risk to be assaulted, abused or victimized
- ~40% of unhoused women are coerced into trafficking
- 26% of unhoused youth have witnessed a sexual assault
- Unhoused individuals are disproportionately more likely to contract deadly diseases such as HIV, Tuberculosis, COVID-19, Metabolic disease and Heart disease

Eviction in VA: What to Know

Virginia, like some other states, counties and local jurisdictions, has extended eviction moratoriums at a local level through funds available in the Rental Relief Act.

Additionally, 4 cities and 11 counties in VA are currently covered under the CDC moratorium for high-risk areas.

Protections under this statewide moratorium will remain active until June 30th, 2022. Landlords are required by law to inform you about the Rental Relief Program, and may apply on your behalf. Landlords with less than 4 units are not as beholden to the RRP as those with more than 4 units - research yours and stay aware of local mandates. Tenants should remain wary of loopholes found by landlords.

Resources

We urge you to stay updated and informed on local and state-wide news regarding your particular area's eviction news. Many cities have passed their own protections, and Chesterfield & Fairfax county have relief programs separate from the VA RRP.

Virginia Rental Relief Program

<https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp>

Legal Encyclopedia and Info on Eviction Law in VA

www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/tenant-defenses-evictions-virginia.html

Resources pt.2

US Department of HUD Rental Aid Resources

<https://www.hud.gov/states/virginia/renting>

Emergency Homeless Services Providers by County in VA

<https://www.hud.gov/states/virginia/homeless/providers>

YWCA Richmond

*<https://ywcarichmond.org/resources/>
(804) 972-0813*

Virginia Legal Aid Society (VLAS).

*<http://vlas.org/>
1-866-534-5243*

List of Agencies offering Free or Low-Cost Legal Aid

<https://www.hud.gov/states/virginia/homeless/legalaid>