

**IMPORTANT — READ FIRST**

This cover sheet is **for information purposes ONLY.**

Do **NOT** send this page to your landlord. Only send the attached letter once filled out.

**INFORMATION PAGE FOR ILLEGAL LOCKOUTS  
For Tenants in Illinois**

**Who should use this sample illegal lockout letter?**

Tenants in Illinois who have been illegally locked out of their unit by their landlord.

To determine if there is a stronger local ordinance, visit [rentervention.com](http://rentervention.com).

**What is an illegal lockout?**

An illegal lockout is when your landlord tries to prevent you from living in or accessing your unit. Your landlord can NOT:

- Change, remove or add locks;
- Remove or block doors and windows;
- Remove appliances or fixtures;
- Cut off utility services like electricity, gas, heat, & water;
- Remove personal property;
- Cause injury to you or your property;

**What do I do with this letter?**

Fill in the blanks, check the boxes that apply, sign it, and give it to your landlord. Keep a copy for yourself.

**What other options do I have if my landlord doesn't stop the illegal lockout?**

- Call the local police department and ask the officer to resolve the lockout.
- Call the local building department or township.
- Contact a legal services attorney or tenant advocacy group.

Landlord's Name:

Landlord's Address:

**Subject: Unlawful Lockout – Immediate Demand to Restore Access**

Date:

Sent via:  Email  Text  Mail  Certified Mail

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am a tenant at \_\_\_\_\_ (*Address and Unit #*). I am writing to notify you of an illegal lockout that happened on or around \_\_\_\_\_ (*Date*).

The illegal lockout that happened included (*Check any that apply*):

- Removing or adding locks
- Removing or blocking doors and windows
- Interfering with utilities such as electricity, gas, hot or cold water, plumbing, heat, telephone service, or internet
- Removing personal property
- Removing appliances
- Causing injury to a tenant or their property
- Threat to do any of the above

This lockout is against the law. The only acceptable method to evict a tenant is to file an Eviction Complaint in court through the Illinois Eviction Act, 735 ILCS 5/9-101. Only a judge can order a tenant to move out of a house or apartment, and only the Sheriff's office can enforce an eviction, not a landlord. This is true even if the tenant is behind in rent, if the lease has expired, or if there is no written lease.

I demand that you immediately stop this illegal lockout and restore access to my home.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Tenant Signature*)

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Tenant Name*)

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Phone*)

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Email*)