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.

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)*