EVICTION DEFENSE PROJECT

Oregon Law Center, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, and Center for Nonprofit Legal Services

> Becky Straus Managing Attorney, Eviction Defense Project



WHAT DOES EDP DO?





Provides legal help to lowincome tenants facing eviction (must have a court notice) Provides referrals to rent assistance providers (subject to limitations created by the providers)



OVER 20,000 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED SINCE START IN 2021

POSITIVE RESULT IN 98% OF CASES ONGOING DATA ANALYSIS OF EVICTION COURT OUTCOMES AND STATEWIDE TRENDS







EVICTION DEFENSE PROJECT IMPACT

STATEWIDE FINDINGS

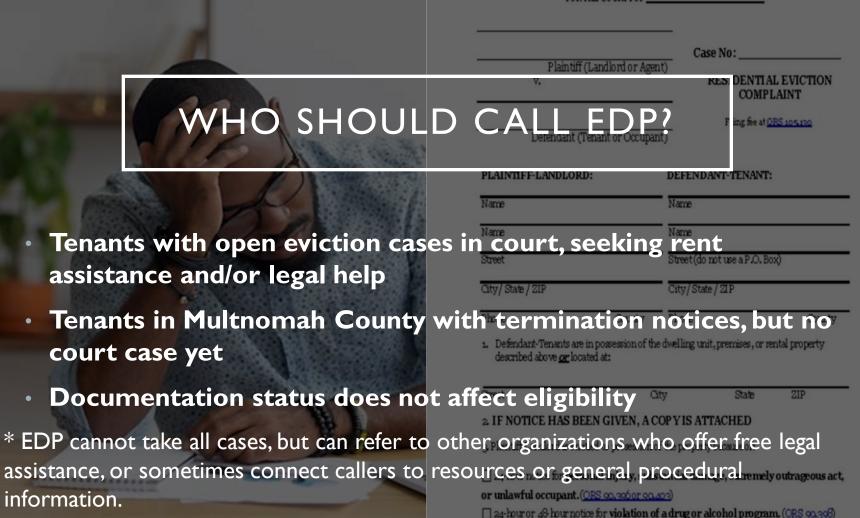
When a tenant has a lawyer, they remain in their home in the majority of cases. When a tenant doesn't have a lawyer, they are more likely than not to lose their home.

When a tenant doesn't have a lawyer (regardless of whether the landlord has a lawyer), they are four times more likely to be involuntarily displaced than if they did have a lawyer.

Tenant default rates plummet to almost zero when a tenant has a lawyer.

When both the landlord and the tenant have a lawyer, the tenant is more likely to win at trial than the landlord.

When a tenant has a lawyer, they are almost four times as likely to get a move-out date of longer than 1 month than they are without a lawyer. Without a lawyer, tenants are twice as likely to have to agree to a very short move-out of less than 30 days.



24-hour notice for perpetrating domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

WILL TENANTS GET RENT ASSISTANCE OR A LAWYER OR BOTH?

RENT ASSISTANCE REFERRALS

- EDP serves as the central intake line for the OHCS rent assistance program, Eviction Prevention Rapid Response (EPRR)
- EPRR is available in a limited amount each month and typically runs out within the first week or two
- When EPRR is open, EDP can open an application for a tenant and then EPRR does all the processing and follow-up. EDP has no role in deciding which tenants get rent assistance and how much is available.

LEGAL HELP

- Legal information and self-help materials always provided
- Callers will be screened for income eligibility and legal defenses
- Usually, tenants with a nonpayment case with defense will not get an attorney. Tenants with a case with a defense will either get phone advice or attorney rep, depending on program capacity.
- Over-income callers or callers otherwise turned away will be given options for other legal help.

INTAKE OPTIONS TO REACH EDP

Phone/Voicemail:

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- Main Intake Line: 888-585-9638
- Intake hours currently M-Th 9am-Ipm
- Leave a voicemail with county, case number and DOB
- Email: evictiondefense@oregonlawcenter.org
- Online Form:
 - <u>https://oregonlawcenter.org/eviction-defense-project/</u>

QUESTIONS?

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