Renters’ Rights

• What the law says a landlord cannot do:
  o Cannot prevent you from taking lawful steps to get a home repaired
    ▪ May not increase rent or decrease services as a result of you asking to have your property repaired
  o Cannot shut off any utilities, change the locks, or threaten any of these, to make you move out of the house
  o Cannot harass you by demanding to enter your home or enter your home at unreasonable times of day
  o Cannot “put you out” or remove any of your property from the home without a signed court order from a judge
  o Cannot keep your belongings to try to force you to pay rent
  o Cannot raise rent once a lease has been signed, unless the lease specifically allows it

• What a landlord must do:
  o Make all repairs needed to make the house livable
  o Keep all electrical, plumbing, heating, and ventilation systems in good working order
  o Supply enough hot water and heat
  o Keep hallways and stairways safe and clean
  o Provide garbage cans and dumpsters
  o Give tenant at least 24 hours notice before entering the home
  o Make sure that building complies with all health codes

*Adapted from The Ohio State University and Kent State University Commuter Resources Site*