

What to Do If Your Landlord Doesn't Pay the Utility Bill

If you receive a shut-off notice from a utility that your landlord was supposed to pay, you need to **ACT VERY QUICKLY**. If you are the person responsible for paying the bill, then this information will not help you. If you did not receive a termination notice, but the utility was disconnected, call an attorney.

FIRST: Contact the landlord and request that (s)he pay the bill and avoid further problems.

NEXT: If this does not work, contact the Utility company to see what can be done to have the account transferred into your name. Some utilities have simple procedures to simply transfer the account, while others require you establish your own account.

Things to Check for: deposits, separate metering and whether you need the landlord's permission to put the account into your name.

If the utility is regulated, some helpful numbers are the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-282-0198 and the Ohio Consumers Counsel at 1-877-742-5622

LASTLY: Finally, call a lawyer if the landlord will not make the payment, or if the utility is terminated. If you are a senior or low-income, call 1-866-LAW OHIO.