



**Philly renters currently do NOT have the right to an attorney in eviction court.**

- Philadelphia ranks 4th nationally in total evictions, with over 20,000 evictions filed every year.
- While 80% of landlords in Philadelphia have access to an attorney, only 11% of renters do.
- Evictions continue the cycle of poverty by causing job loss, increasing homelessness, and creating family instability and displacement.
- Evictions damage health by causing persistent mental and physical health issues.
- Evictions hurt children. Children whose families have been evicted are twice as likely to enter the foster care system and to experience disruptions in education.

**“Right to Counsel” can balance the scales.**

- When renters have lawyers, they’re more likely to work out successful agreements or to win in court.
- The reasons for eviction filings vary--in many cases, renters are evicted for requesting basic repairs and adequate utilities.
- Evictions are a citywide problem, but not all communities are impacted equally.
- Evictions are most likely to impact black women with children, elders, veterans and Philadelphians living with disabilities.

**“Right to Counsel” will save the city money.**

- A 2018 report found that an annual investment of \$3.5 million would save the city \$45.2 million annually.
- Philly shelters are already full. Keeping people in their homes is a more effective and affordable way to address homelessness.

City Council and Mayor Kenney have already invested in addressing the city’s eviction crisis by providing \$2 million in funding for the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Project --but now we need to take the next step to ensure that every single family can get the help they need to save their home.

