Congratulations!

You finished the interview. Now you will need to:

1. **Print, copy and deliver** all of the forms on the page where you downloaded this instruction sheet, to the {{ court.name }} and to {% if landlord.has\_attorney %}your landlord's attorney, {{ landlord.attorneys\_name }}{% else %}your landlord, {{ landlord.name }}{% endif %}.
2. Prepare for court.
3. File a follow-up discovery motion.
4. **Appear in court on {% if case.status == "late" %}{{case.original\_date}}**

**{% endif %}{% if case.status == "summons" %}{{case.rescheduled\_date}}**

**{% endif %}**. {% if not court\_is\_housing\_court and transfer\_to\_housing\_court %}Because your case is being transferred to {{ transfer\_court\_name }}, your court date may be postponed. Talk to the clerk to be sure, but you will likely get a notice in the mail with the new date.{% endif %}

While you are waiting for your new court date, you should think about what you need to do to get ready for court. Legally, **you may still owe rent** while you wait for your first court date or trial.

1. Print, Copy and Deliver

You have {{ nice\_number(num\_downloads) }} forms. Make sure to print, copy, and organize 3 sets of each form.

1. The first set must be delivered to the clerk in the {{ court.name }}.
2. The second set goes to {% if landlord.has\_attorney %}your landlord's attorney, {{ landlord.attorneys\_name }}{% else %}your landlord, {{ landlord.name }}{% endif %}.
3. The final set is for your own records.
4. Prepare for court

If you asked for a jury trial, your first day in court will probably be a chance to talk about your case with your landlord. If you have a trial, it will happen later. However, check with your court to make sure.

If you agree that you owe your landlord any money for rent, think about how you can get that money before or close to the time you appear in court. Talk to your local social service agencies for help with paying some or all of the rent. Your landlord may agree to a payment plan if the amount you owe is low enough.

Think about what you want when you are in court, and what you can expect if you won on each claim in a trial. You should read the Answer form to understand your claims and defenses. Most cases end in an agreement. Make sure you know what you want your agreement to say and that you don't give up your rights without getting an agreement that you can accept.

If you are saying that your landlord did something wrong, think about how you will prove it in court. Do you have any photographs of what your landlord did or did not do? Can you take any now? Do you have any written reports, from the city's board of health or inspectional services division? If not, can you ask for them now?

Are there any people you want to be in court to be your witnesses? You should think about what each person can say and have them ready for the day your trial will happen. Check with the court to find out if you should be ready for trial on your first court date.

Learn how to prepare for court and negotiate your own housing case here: <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-booklet-10-negotiating>

1. Compel Discovery

You asked for Discovery, or information to help you be ready for court. Discovery is due in 10 days from when your landlord receives your request, {{ date\_discovery\_due }}. If your landlord doesn't give you discovery, you should tell the court and ask the court to give you more time to be ready for court.

We gave you a special form that is attached to the discovery form for this. You will need to wait until 10 days, and then finish filling out this form no later than {{ date\_motion\_to\_compel\_due }}. A copy will need to go to your landlord and to the court.

1. Appear in Court

Your next day in court is scheduled for {% if case.status == "late" %}{{case.original\_date}}{% else %}{{case.rescheduled\_date}}{% endif %}. {% if not court\_is\_housing\_court and transfer\_to\_housing\_court %}Because you are transferring your case, it may be postponed. Talk to the clerk to be sure.{% endif %}

Arrive by 9:00 AM. Look out for the Lawyer for the Day table if your court has one. Be prepared by knowing what you want and with any documents that support your case.