#### What to Expect in Housing Court

#### **Brooklyn Housing Court: 11216, 11221 and 11225: Room 612--Part F**

- When tenants answer, they answer by themselves. They can get help from Housing Court Answers to help them answer--they have a desk right by the answer window on the 2nd floor.
- On their next court date, there will be tenant attorneys in the courtroom and in the hallway outside of the courtroom on that day and they have a right to get an attorney if they are income eligible. The Tenant Attorneys will call out their name in the courtroom or in the hallway, and then they will do a brief income screening in room 612c. If they take their case, they will ask for the case to be adjourned that day so they can make an appointment with the tenant and have time to learn the facts of the case in order to defend their case on the next court date. Having a lawyer can reduce the number of times tenants have to be at the court.
- Human Resources Administration: Room 201
- Who are the attorneys? See here for the rotation and contact info of the providers.
- NYCHA tenants are sent to part A on the 9th floor. There are discussions now about covering that part but it has not started (1/17/18). RTC is not up and running yet. See below for more info on what to tell NYCHA tenants.

#### Bronx Housing Court: 10467 & 10468-- Room 320; 10457--Room 350;

- When tenants answer, they answer by themselves. They can get help from Housing Court Answers to help them answer--they have a desk in the hallway in the lobby by the elevator. After answering, tenants can go to window 1A to do an HRA eligibility intake
- On their first court date, there will be tenant attorneys in the courtroom and in the hallway and they have a right to get an attorney if they are income eligible. The Tenant Attorneys will call out their name in the courtroom or in the hallway, and then they will do a brief income screening in the hallway. (Some tenants are sent downstairs to window 1A for additional income screening, they should go back upstairs and find the same attorney after screening) If they take their case, they will ask for the case to be adjourned so they can make an appointment with the tenant and have time to learn the facts of the case in order to defend their case on the next court date. Having a lawyer can reduce the number of times tenants have to be at the court.
- However, if a tenant lives in one of the zips and has an ongoing case they want representation on, they won't get representation in the courts. At that point you should directly refer them to one of the providers in your borough.
- Human Resources administration: 1A, which is an office on the ground floor
- Who are the tenant attorneys? See <a href="here">here</a> for the rotation and contact info of the providers.

- NYCHA tenants go to 851 Grand Concourse. RTC is not up and running yet. See below for more info on what to tell NYCHA tenants.
- The plan is to move the entire Housing Court to 851 Grand Concourse in the fall of 2018 and NYCHA tenants will not be covered until then.
- The judge at 851 occasionally sends tenants to 1118 with a judicial referral.

## Manhattan Housing Court: 10025, 10026 and 10027: Room 1164B, Part G.

- When tenants answer, they will be referred to HRA's office, who will do an income screening. If they are eligible for an attorney they will be referred to one of the tenant attorneys on call that day and sent to their office (see above).
- The attorneys will help them answer and schedule a time to do a more in depth interview. On their first court date, they will be represented by an attorney and they may or may not need to go to housing court themselves.
- If they don't go to HRA but answer by themselves, then on the day of their court date, there will be tenant attorneys in the courtroom and in the alcove space right outside the courtroom (unless it's a wednesday). The Tenant Attorneys will call out their name in the courtroom or in the hallway, and then they will do a brief income screening in the hallway. If they take their case, they will ask for the case to be adjourned so they can make an appointment with the tenant and have time to learn the facts of the case in order to defend their case on the next court date. Having a lawyer can reduce the number of times tenants have to be at the court.
- Housing Court Answers has a table by the answer windows.
- Human Resources administration: Room 854
- Who are the attorneys? See <a href="here">here</a> for the rotation and contact info of the providers.

NYCHA tenants are not yet covered in Manhattan. RTC is not up and running yet. See below for more info on what to tell NYCHA tenants.

#### Queens Housing Court: 11433, 11434, 11473: Part A, Room 401.

- When tenants answer, they answer by themselves. They can get help from Housing Court Answers to help them answer--they have a desk in the hallway on the 2nd floor, right by the answer window.
- Their next court date will be on a **Wednesday**. There will be tenant attorneys in the courtroom and in the hallway on that day and they have a right to get an attorney if they are income eligible. The Tenant Attorneys will call out their name in the courtroom or in the hallway, and then they will do a brief income screening in a conference room. If they take their case, they will ask for the case to be adjourned that day so they can make an appointment with the tenant and have time to learn the facts of the case in

- order to defend their case on the next court date. Having a lawyer can reduce the number of times tenants have to be at the court.
- Human Resources administration: Room 121, next to NYLAG's office.
- Who are the attorneys? See <a href="here">here</a> for the rotation and contact info of the providers. Providers rotate on Wednesdays.
- NYCHA cases are heard in Part A, Room 401 on Mondays (which is the Right to Counsel part on Wednesdays). RTC is not up and running yet. See below for more info on what to tell NYCHA tenants.

## Staten Island Housing court: 10302, 10303, 10314

- Right to Counsel started on Dec 11th.
- When tenants answer, they answer by themselves (in the basement). They can get help from Housing Court Answers which has a table on the main floor in the lobby right past the entrance.
- All cases in the right zip codes (currently 10302, 10303, and 10314) are pulled by the court the night before, and a list is sent to the provider who's assigned the next day. All cases not only cases that are on for the first time are assigned. The assigned provider comes early and calls names in the courtroom, explains who they are and the the new law to tenants in the hall, and take the ones who are eligible (and interested) upstairs for intake and consultation. If the tenant is eligible and accepts counsel, the provider will put a notice of appearance, ask for an adjournment, and make an appointment with the tenant at their office (the providers have offices by the ferry).
- The Human Resources Administration representative has an office in the help center and a sign up sheet at the Housing Court Answers table (not for Right to Counsel, but for rent arrears assistance and printouts). The tenant attorneys are: Legal Aid, Legal Services and CAMBA.
- NYCHA tenants are covered the same as everyone else in the covered zips. Tenants in NYCHA buildings are all scheduled to appear on Tuesdays.

## **NYCHA Administrative Hearings**

Administrative Hearings take place at 250 Broadway, on the 2nd Floor on Tuesdays-Fridays. Right next to the security guard, you can find a housing advocate from Housing Court Answers, Tuesday-Friday from 9am-12pm.

Right to Counsel has not yet started for administration hearings. We hope it will soon. To stay updated, please sign up to receive updates. In the meantime, that doesn't mean you can't get an attorney.

Learn more about NYCHA termination hearings <u>here</u> and find more resources <u>here</u>.

# NYCHA Non Payment Cases in Housing Court (other than SI):

You are in one of the RTC zips but unfortunately RTC is not up and running in the NYCHA part yet. We hope this will change soon. To stay updated, please sign up to receive updates. In the meantime, that doesn't mean you can't get an attorney.