

# Defend against your Missouri eviction

Congratulations The Tenant! You have finished all the forms you need defend against your Missouri eviction. The rest of the pages in this packet are your answer and motions in **The Landlord v. The Tenant**.

## Important warnings

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If you don't file an answer with the affirmative defense, they can't bring this up at all.

## Next steps

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1. File all of the documents with the court now.
2. Deliver a copy to The Landlord or their attorney.
3. **Keep a copy for yourself.**
4. The clerk will tell you how to go to the hearing.

## File your answer right away

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1. Look over the forms below, one more time. Make sure everything is correct.
2. Call the to find out how they want you to send your forms to them.

## What happens in the hearing?

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The judge reads the complaint and the evidence. They may ask you questions.

## Evidence Checklist

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- Photographs or other evidence of the chronic\_dampness
- Photographs or other evidence of the lead\_paint
- Photographs or other evidence of the roaches
- A copy of the notice that you sent to the landlord about the problem that needs repaired

## What can the judge do?

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At the hearing the judge can:

1. If the judge finds that the landlord's petition does not meet the requirements, the judge can dismiss the eviction case. The judge can allow the landlord to amend the landlord's petition, which means a new hearing date will be scheduled.
2. So long as possession is issue, the judge can make you deposit all the rent is due. Judges generally grant this, unless there is unusual circumstances like the tenant using the move.

## What happens if I lose the eviction case?

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You may still have the right to "pay and stay". You also have the right to ask for a new trial within 10 days of the court hearing.