Waterloo Landlord Manual

> Waterloo Department of Human Services -Housing Authority 2021

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Understanding How to Start as a Landlord

Starting out as a landlord can be an exciting, yet intimidating career move for anyone considering or new to the profession. This section attempts to bridge the gap between knowing little about the profession to having the appropriate resources & tools to help anyone transitioning into this role.

Joining the Iowa Landlord Association

According to Andrew Lietzow, executive director of the Iowa Landlord Association, knowing landlord tenant law, where to go for help and how to work with tenants is critical.

One of the best steps new landlords can take is join the <u>Iowa Landlord</u> <u>Association</u>. Being surrounded with other landlords provides a network of people in the same profession who have been in the shoes of a beginning before.

Educate, educate, educate

Aside from associating with people in the same profession, education & experience are invaluable to adjusting to the job of property manager.

In 2019, Lee Rood of the Des Moines Register penned a primer for prospective landlords on what legal struggles could be expected & the general expectations of property manager. It serves as a great starting point for those considering the profession.

TDMR: https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2019/04/19/iowa-lawlandlord-tenant-rights-lee-rood-watchdog-column-rental-properties-desmoines-low-income/3507870002/

Expectations/Obligations For Landlords

In order to do a good job as a landlord & understand your duties, it's important to be aware of legal standards & obligations that exist for landlords to follow. Not only does this help landlords do a good job, but just as importantly will help tenants understand what is expected of them under their rental agreements.

The State Standard (562A)

<u>Iowa Code 562A</u> is the legal standard to which landlords & tenants are held to.

Some of the most important topics covered include: landlord duties, landlord remedies, the ending of rental agreements, and rental deposits.

Summarizing and Understanding Landlord Duties

<u>The Iowa State Bar Association</u> offers a legal network where landlords can go to interpret the legal language & specificities of the code further.

<u>Iowa Legal Aid</u> offers a summary of Iowa Code 562A. This summary covers the main points of the code without legal language, making it easier to digest.

Relevant Laws/City Codes For Landlords

As a landlord, it is crucial to have an understanding of essential laws, rules, and city codes that are applicable. Laws & city codes aren't always easy to find or easy to interpret. This manual serves as a shortcut to finding the laws & codes that you need for your role!

City of Waterloo - Relevant Codes

Code enforcement is an important part of making sure that property managers are maintaining their properties..

The City of Waterloo's <u>Code</u> <u>Enforcement Page</u> provides useful information & answers common questions to keep properties up to city standards

City of Waterloo - Relevant Forms

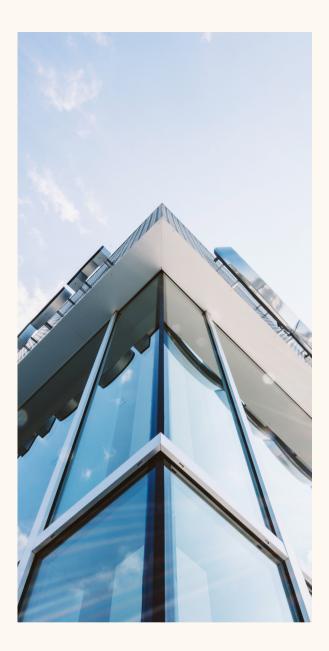
With any new profession comes a load of paperwork. Here are the relevant forms for the City of Waterloo:

- Rental Inspections Form

<u>– Rental Unit Registration</u> <u>Permit Form</u>

<u>- Landlord Online</u> <u>Registration with</u> <u>Instructions</u>

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- Tenants must not purposefully, or simply out of carelessness, abuse, or damage any of the property or facilities; nor may they knowingly allow another to do so.
- It is the legal duty of the tenant to avoid activities or actions that will disturb the neighbors' sense of peace and quiet. So avoid excessive partying, altercations, criminal activity, and don't leave young children (12 or under) unattended.

Tenant Duties and Expectations

According to Iowa state law, Tenants are legally obligated to fulfill a few central responsibilities, being;

- Tenants are required to be in accordance with all relevant building and housing codes at federal, state, and local levels for their own health and safety. This includes proper fire safety practices.
- Tenants are responsible for proper garbage disposal, in a proper receptacle (e.g. plastic bag in a trash bin for garbage and recyclables in a recyclables bin) on their proper pick-up days.

THE FUNDAMENTAL DUTY OF A TENANT IS ULTIMATELY TO PAY THEIR RENT.

- Tenants must properly use all appliances and facilities at their residence; this includes plumbing, heating, and air conditioning; tenants should not tamper with or abuse the wiring/electrical setup; any faults should be reported to the landlord.
- In Waterloo it is key that tenants maintain their lawns (should it apply); this includes weeding and mowing to maintain a proper appearance.
- It is also important in Waterloo that tenants remove snow\ice from steps, walks, and driveways promptly after a snowfall.

Important Remedies for Tenants

Unfortunately, landlords and tenants do not always see eye to eye in every regard, but these are situations that are possible to resolve with readily available methods.

- One of the first possible methods a tenant can use is to simply try to resolve any issues by communicating directly with the landlord. Oftentimes landlords seek to address concerns before it risks going further, and some landlords may even provide dispute or request forms.
- If a tenant believes they have a legitimate dispute or issue and the landlord is completely unresponsive to their concerns, the next step could be to contact the city government, this could be the housing inspector for code violations, the city attorney for illegal practices, or the housing division for other concerns.
- The tenant could risk making their own repairs and claim to deduct the cost from rent owed to the landlord. It is important to note that very specific steps must be taken to withhold rent, and the process should be well-documented. A tenant should also consider contacting the Housing Inspector if a landlord fails to make necessary repairs and maintain the house or apartment.
- If the tenant becomes disillusioned with these alternative processes, the tenant always has the possibility of bringing the dispute to court, for many issues regarding housing disputes (beyond evictions court) this would likely be in small claims court.

<u>Understanding Tenant Rights</u>

As a tenant, it is very important to be aware of your rights in regards to your landlord and housing.

- Except in exemplary cases of emergency, a landlord is always legally obligated to provide at least 24 hours notice to the tenant before they enter the property.
- It is absolutely illegal for a landlord to strike back or retaliate in any form against a tenant who seeks to affirm any of their rights, initiates any sort of dispute or who contacts any authorities about a violation.
- It is important that a tenant remembers that they always have a right to call for assistance, a landlord may not evict or retaliate against a tenant who calls for medical or police assistance.
- When screening potential tenants for rental opportunities, landlords cannot deny a tenant a lease for reasons based on his or her race, sex, or class.

Sample Documents for Landlords

Being a landlord requires a lot of patience, compassion... and the ability to understand various forms/paperwork. This section will focus on showcasing and explaining documents that are relevant to landlords in the process of on-boarding new tenants, handling issues with pre-existing tenants, and dealing with the inspections process.

Lease Agreement

Lease agreements are the most important legal document in the renting process for both landlords and tenants.

It displays information on the tenants who will be occupying the dwelling, the amount that will be paid in rent (usually on a monthly basis), the utilities that will be covered by both parties, the various regulations the landlord maintains for the property, and so much more.

As a landlord, you are tasked with creating such a document that displays this information, so both you and your tenants have a common understanding of the renting expectations.



Inspection Report

Inspection reports are extremely important for maintaining a safe environment for tenants and for to landlords to better understand where improvements can be made around a dwelling.

Rental inspections are conducted by trained and qualified City of Waterloo employees.

When an inspection is carried out, the inspector will look to see if things like appliances and smoke detectors are in working order, accessways are easily maneuverable, and the electrical/plumbing is up to city code. If a landlord fails too many of these requirements, over many occasions, various penalties will take effect.



Lead Paint Exposure

There are many older dwellings in Waterloo, being that is was founded in 1868. As a landlord, you have the responsibility to check for lead paint in houses built before 1978 to protect potential tenants.

LANDLORDS OF IOWA, INC.		
Lead-Based Paint/ Lead-Based Pa Required for any residential pro		
	perty built before 1970	
Street Address of Property:		
L. Lead Warning Statement:		
Housing built before 1978 may contain lead-b health hazards if not managed properly. Lead		
and to pregnant women. Before renting pre-15		
known lead-based paint and/or lead-based pain		must also receive a
federally approved pamphlet on lead poisonin	g prevention	
II. Landlord's Disclosure:		
A. Presence of lead-based paint and/or lead-b (1). Landlord knows of the following leader of the fo		
(1). Landiord <u>knows</u> of the following left hazards in the unit:	id-based paint and/or lead-based pa	int
(2). Landlord has no knowledge of lead-	based paint and/or lead-based paint	
hazards in the unit.		
B. Records and Reports available to the landlo	and folgade (1) or (2) holosoils	
(1). Landlord has provided the tenant wi	th all available records reports pert	aining
to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint ha	azards in the unit as listed below:	
(2). Landlord has <u>no reports'records</u> pert lead-based paint hazards In the unit.	taining to lead-based paint and/or	
lead-based paint hazards in the unit.		
III. Tenant's Acknowledgment: [Tenant is		
A. Tenant has received copies of	reports as listed in B. (1). above alet Protect Your Family From Leas	d in Your Home
		a in 10ao 110me.
IV. Landlord's /Manager's/Agent's Ackno		
Owner has been informed of obli his/her responsibility to ensure compliant	igations under 42 U.S.C. 485 2d an nce.	a is aware of
<u>V. Certification of Accuracy</u> : The following to the best of their knowledge, that the i		
to the own of their knowledge, that the r	internation day have provided to a	de acconne.
Print Name of Landlord	Landlord/Manager/Agent	Date
Tenant Date	Tenant	Date

Checking Co-Signers

Co-signers are people who will use their credit record in place of the tenant to help them sign a lease on a property. This document will help you understand how to analyze the worthiness of a potential co-signer

Notice For Late Rent

As a landlord, it is common to have tenants make late rent payments. If this becomes a common occurrence, you can leave a notice like this, which warns tenants of certain penalties if rent isn't paid in a timely manner.

FO:	
and all persons holding under you or in possession of the	
Each of you is hereby notified that demand is made of yo due on the date of in the te	I for payment of the unpaid rent which was tal amount of 5
Rent is due under the terms of the Rental Agreement cov addrese:	ering the dwelling unit with the following
No	Street
Tenant(s)	_, lowa, now used and occupied by you as
You are further notified that the Landlord/Owner infendes in the full amount of \$he not paid within three 13 This notice is given to you in accordance with the provisio	days after the service of this notice to you.
in the full amount of \$ is not paid within three (3	days after the service of this notice to you. ns of Chapter 562A of the Code of Iowa.
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In the full amount of 5 is not paid within three (3 This notice is given to you in accordance with the provide SERVACE Berved this of at a.m. / p.m. to (Signature of person accepting notice – Not regumed)	days after the service of this notice to you. ns of Chapter 562A of the Code of towa.

Moving Inventory List

It's important to keep track of the welfare of the dwelling when a tenant moves in or out, and this document will help keep record of any damages, and their respective costs.

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	Signature of					DVa	
MOVE-OUT:	Signature of		-10011			Date	
			haven			Date	
Tenant's Fonests						Phone	
					Sectio	on Break	
CODE							
OK+OK BillsBroken							
BU+Burned CH+Chipped							
CR+Cracked DA+Damaged							
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GR=Greasy							
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Sample Documents for Tenants

Being a tenant can be daunting. The power dynamic between a landlord and tenant can be complex and difficult to navigate. A tenant should have the right materials to be able to acknowledge and understand the terms and conditions they agree to upon signing. This section showcases sample paperwork that a tenant might need to access.

Lease Application

A lease application is arguably the most important document for potential tenants. Below is a sample document showing questions a potential tenant may be asked to answer for their potential landlord. Submitting this application shows a landlord the tenant is firmly interested in their property.

	APPL	IDLORDS OF IOWA, INC.	
eferences for Applicants.	We do not rest to anyone w	LICATION, Read Our Rules. We collect an phose references we can't contact. We do n ou 3 years. We do not rent to the 1" Appl History, not Personal Appearance. We may	s many Applications as possible. We check of allow anyone to move in immediately. We loant: we rent to BEST APPLICANT meeting y require Co-Signer.
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Address or type of unit ap			ssion Date
IOMEWESSAGE	IN WHOSE NAME IS PHONE LISTED?	BEST TIME OF DAY TO CONTACT YOU	PHONE
NAMES AND RELATIONS	UPS OF EVERYONE WHO W	ALL OCCUPY UNIT including ages of minor	s:
		4	
		6.	
Provided Landlord 30-6	aye' Written Notice? Yes C	No Lift on SECTION & How many year	s? Total rent? \$ Your share \$
SOCIAL SEC.#	DRIVER'S LICENSE #	STATE EXP-DATE	E PHOTO ID
	INCLUDE 3 YRS LANDLO	ORD /EMPLOYMENT/INCOME REFEREN	
RESENT		PRESENT	PHONE
	MO YR		
MEVIOUS	Y	PREVIOUS	PHONE
Dates of Occupancy MO	8 MO)	ritRent 5Moving	
ADDRESS		COMPANY HOW LONG? POSITION	PHONE
SHIFT: Day Night	Supervisor	PHONE	Subject to transfer? Yes No
INCOME SOURCE #1		APPROXIMATE MONTHLY AMOUNT \$	HOW LONG?
INCOME SOURCE #2		APPROXIMATE MONTHLY AMOUNT 5	HOW LONG?
OUTSTANDING LOAN		BALANCE DUE	MONTHLY PAYMENT \$
OUTSTANDING LOAN		BALANCE DUE	MONTHLY PAYMENT 5
BANK/CREDIT		Checking Account? Yes D	No D Savings Account? Yes No
	MEEN LATE? Yes No.	EVER BEEN EVICTED? YesNo	Even exclain on back
		APPLY TO ALL TENANTS? Yes No	
NEED INTERPRETER? I		ADDRESS	PHONE
		No If yes, explain	
	ER? Yes No If yes		
	PETS? Yes No If yes,		WATERBEDS Yes No
		I, What?	
			HOVELING DELECTRIC DINONE
	OWNED? CI VACUUM CL		
		ne & phone# of person completing App	
	NUMBER OF LICENSED DRI		
Make #1	Year #1 License #1_		ear #2 License #2
NON-RELATIVE REFEREN		Address	Phone
NEAREST LIVING RELAT	ve	Address	Phone
EMERGENCY CONTACT,		Address	Phone
property content/employers incorrect, any Randal Agreen Military status, Rank agreen	personal references. Re-earlies and becomes void & will be suf- ts. Credit Matery Instadout Cres	all available means: consumer reporting agencies fion or investigation of prediminary findings in no fiscal reasons for multiles & loss of Benzelly Depu de Encrear Report, Criminal Records, Renat Note standing & understand that if I am accepted & fail	t required. If any of my answers are found to be wit. I also awherize worthcation of Englisymeet, my bounder, Eulerians Johnson, Radow status. 1

Lease Addendum

A lease addendum is another document tenants should familiarize themselves with. This document allows for tenants to propose a change in their lease, and allows for a landlord to notify tenants of an upcoming change.

AgreementiLease dated
¢(s)
ntal agreement will be changed as follows:
te:
0
0

Deposit to Reserve Unit

This documents secures an already open unit or a residence opening up that will become the tenants. This is typically attached to a method of payment, known as a security deposit.

market and/	or before we	arrange for a	deposit to resen Section 8 [Public uired for each adu	Housing	t before we take it off the Authority] inspection if it.
Applicant			has given	a deposit	of \$
to hold the re	ital unit locate	d at			
The monthly	ent is \$	and occupar	cy date is to be		This reservation is valid
through the d	ate of		or such earlie	r time as:	
referen informa	te checks, cre tion on the Ap	dit checks, evicti plication.	te the screening i on search, criminal any of its Applican	records ch	ny or all of the following: eck, verification of all other
agrees to sig	n any require	d paperwork wit		pay all su	ion if applicable], Applicant ms necessary to move in.
1. Applicant 2. After appl 3. After appl pay all	decides at an oval Applican oval Applican sums necess	t does not promp ary to move in.	nt the unit mind about renting	sign the R	ental Agreement and
described ab 1. Applicant screen 2. This is a 1	we] in the even is declined for ing process. section 8 appl	nt that: any reason wha	tsoever by the land	ord after o	to pay for the screening as ompleting the brought up to Section 8
I/We fully und	erstand the al	ove statements	and agree to abide	by them.	
Date:		Tim			_

Security Deposit Agreement

This goes hand in hand with the previously mentioned deposit. This brings the tenant and landlord to an agreement that by paying this sum, the landlord will provide the tenant with the desired property.

	CURITY DEPOSIT AGREEMENT NDLORDS OF IOWA, INC.
fu	mant agrees that this Deposit is not intended as advance payment of rent, and that the Il monthly rent will be paid on or before the first of every month including the last onth.
be in ur	indicial and Tenant well jointly review the "Move-in Onecklas" for inspection at goining and and of accounty. Leaded and instant should portion "Permove out" spection 7-10 days prior to accual move-out so that ferant can correr to statisticatory conditions by move-out day and prior to final inspection. NANY SMAKKO (ULICATION: Return with owner at ed (Insue) is same condition as the bigining of transy!
w	e want to return your deposit, and we will return it if you have satisfactorily met the following conditions:
in,	or satisfactory conditions, no charges are made; for unsatisfactory conditions, charges will be made as licenty Your deposit will be returned in fall if all terms of Rental Agreement have been fulfilled and there on demanes.
Ar Ds In La dir re	to outso of recreating the numl and related fices will be charged to the doposit if the lease is becausted, effing nuit will be inspected after all howerhold effects have been remaved & kays returned to Langette- opercises will be scheduled during mermal basices hours unless other arrangements have been made with inflexed. If Texant fields note tackaffert for Nov-Out Inspection. Texant relinguistics any rights to gott unsatificationy areas. More-Out Inspection determines any accessary regular, replacement, testrand, earlings, hampening, or with research to the carget of Texant.
n wi	moving at end of leases. Texanit must have given proper notice as explained in Rental Agreement. Texanit "held-over" past explaintion of lease or past end of month, beside owes additional rent and fees icid will be taken from the deposit. In following will be charved to your dramare denoti if the rental arreement is not fulfilled and the landfore
	ffers damages: Unpaid rents, late fees, service fees, damages, cleaning, legal fees, court costs, and any othe paid balances.
CI AI	Lkeys must be returned. Larges and a minimum of X35 per lock including installation; more if actual relocking charges exceed this, i debris, rabbish, garbage, and discards removed from dwelling and placed in proper receptacles or haule are set of the se
Ch No "B	arges are \$50 minimum charge for garbage and/or items left behind that Landlord must haal away. damage to property, furnishings, carpet, or floors beyond normal wear and tear. Dirt is not considered ormal wear and tear."
Pa pr Ch	arges-Expenses incurred to restree unit to its same clean and safe condition, as at beginning of occupancy, iated surfaces should host at least 5 years before repainting is necessary. Damages requiring repainting in 6 35 years will be presented. arges-beauty - \$12 preparation 5 painting plus materials
Er ba wi in	c panning procession and the set of the s
	Refrigerator-540 Not Defensed-510 Store-525 Dirty Over-525 Broiker-515 Dirty Hoot 525 General Cleaning-510 per hour plon materials
	General Channeg-510 per nour plus materials sposable charcoal filter replaced every 6-12 months in exhaust hood. arren-New filter 512

Property Viewing Agreement

This document allows potential tenants to view a property on their own. It allows landlords to loan potential tenants a set of keys to view the property on their own, with the caution that these keys must be returned and they are responsible for anything unusual that occurs during their private viewing.

& KEYS AGREEMENT Landlords of Iowa, Inc.
I hareby acknowledge receipt of the key(s) to the unit located at:
Internd to use the key(s) for the express purpose of viewing the unit to consider whether it is suitable for me to rent, and i will nather disturb nor remove anything found there. As a courtey, I will report to the owner/manager whatever appears to be amiss at the unit.
I have given the owner/manager/agent, whose acknowledgment appears below, a deposit of
*\$and also a valuable personal item consisting of
promise to main the tendply
Rev. 08315005
A10

Pet and Animal Agreement

This is a document outlining rules and exactly what is expected by landlords from tenants who own a pet. It also will address any additional fees for a pet, along with consequences for not following landlords pet or animal rules. The codes for service animals may be different, but are found on the same document.

ADDENDUM TO LEASE The fire locating denotherests for al 1981 require result result results (meaning insegrate to achieve samplines in order, practices and procedences for persons with disability. I.a. Main persons concer he denied behaving because of a units que dong or unserce with medical cardinations assume the denied a cardination. This agreement attaches its, and because part of the Rentel Agreement. Agreement is belanced and part of the control. This agreement attaches the and the data of the control agreement. Agreement is belanced and part of the control. The control of t						
TENANTS	wed/desire to keep an	onimal: Name		Phote Attoched		
Penoibed	Type	Breed		Age		
	Color	Sex		Approx Weight		
pots/anin	els without LANDLORD	ave described onimal in de 'S written permission. w/conditions in exchange for			specifically prohibits keeping	
1.	to keep the minual QUI	ET and under Tenant's cont	rol at all times whether inci-	le or outside dwelling un	k.	
2.	to always keep animal a	estrained on a leash when o	mide dwelling in observae	ce of city's leash laws. I	f animal is picked up or restraine	
	y any outherities while	unleashed, retrieval costs an city/county codes. To keep	Tennat's sole responsibilit	у.		
	for to leave manual in per-	traded for any memorabl	elements of time without inside	r on summer is in tenes.		
5.1	Sever to the minut to an	ry object outside dwelling st	ch av patio'perches, trees,	valks, fences, stairs, gras	W AFERS.	
6. 1	for to leave food or water outside dwelling unit. To feed and water animal INSIDE unit only.					
7.	to provide copy of renter's insumnce policy which specifically includes liability for this manual to provide copy of minul's current inoculations from licensed vaterization including rabies, distances, and other vital vaccinations. To					
8.	 To provide copy of animal's current inoculations from licensed voterization including rabies, distempter, and other vital vaccinatis voluntarily provide new certification of such shots upon registration of current ones. 					
	to mean primal is here	ebroken or trained for the	d'Ettershere ito he cleaned o	es. hibi) alaced on visal surf	ion only	
10.	To take animal 199 feet	ske minual 100 feet from any building entrances for outside defacation away from bushes, shrabs, alay areas,				
11.	dispose of all inside and outside animal droppings properly and quickly in tied plastic bag placed in garbage can or dampaters.					
12.	 To pay \$5.00 per occurrence for waste removal when tenant does not properly pick up and dispose of waste. To keep animal from causing annovance or discumfort to athers. If animal becomes annoving, a threat, bothersome, or in a 					
10.	To keep animal from causing annoyance or discumbert to others. If animal becomes annoying, a thread, bothersome, or in any wa a nuisance or harmful to others and Landlord notifies Tenant of such. Tenant arrees either to (1) correct problems immediately o					
	2) to remove animal fo	on premises or (3) vacate	fereline immediately.			
14.	to understand landlord's	IN MARGER WILL REMOVE	uneying dangerous minud	if tenant refines to do so		
		namper WILL ENTER PR				
- 15	To remove minual's offspring from premises within eight weeks of birth. To consider sprying or neutring minual. To necess stimulation NO additional, or new different, minual shall occurs premises even temporarily.					
18.	To understand Auxiliary Animal must be domestic animal. Reptiles, snakes, biod, mbbits, ferrets, redents, and insects are not permittee					
	ader my circumstances	Discuss fish tanks with me	supercent BEFORE purch	ning.		
	bofinances.				nals prohibited by City or Count penses and/or personal initation (
	then, which are assessed	and not cover by the origin	and amircal deposit.	service and streamly of	terror on or buside tiltens :	
21. 1	n the case of mimals lo	opt only as pets, to pay a De	posit in the Sum of S	er S	(one month's reat) in addition	
		posit. Any annagements for NDLORD'S RIGHT TO 1 E THIS AGREEMENT. 1				
					Date	
TENAN	r	Date	TENANT		Date	
Person k	assume responsibili	y for animal if tenant is	unvilling/unable to com	inne roponsibility for	enimaf:	

Innovative Practices

Landlord Trainings

Throughout the process of compiling a manual, taking a look at the innovative practice of landlord trainings in other cities has been a crucial part in helping Waterloo to better provide information to local landlords.

Looking at the city of **Cedar Rapids**, **IA**, the landlord training session for new landlords twice a year, giving information on housing and property maintenance standards, tenant rights and screening tips, evictions, graffiti, and more. The city website of Cedar Rapids has the PDF versions of the presentations that they use to make the information more accessible for landlords to refer back to as needed.



FAQ Section

Where Can I Go If I Want To Meet Other Landlords?

The Black Hawk Country Landlord Group is an organization comprised of many Waterloo landlords, and they offer great advice/aid to all those who are members of the group. Their contact info is located in the appendix.

I'm scared to contact a lawyer to help fix a problem with my landlord, where do I turn for assistance?

The Iowa Legal Aid office in Waterloo can offer great legal advice surrounding housing/landlord issues. They are a non-profit organization focused solely on helping citizens in need, so you will never have to worry about being taken advantage of by any of their attorneys. Their contact information is in the appendix.

I don't understand some of my lease, and I am not a native English speaker. What are my options?

As mentioned earlier, the Iowa Legal Aid Office location in Waterloo can help with legal advice and reading sometimes difficult to understand contracts. Another option is reaching out to the city office and finding out if there is a native translator of your first language in the area.

There are some concerning problems in my unit that make me think my unit is not up to current city code. I don't want to discuss this with my landlord for fear of eviction. Who should I contact?

A great first contact would be the City of Waterloo's Building Inspection Director, whose contact information is listed in the appendix. They may not be aware the problem is happening, and informing them is the first step. They will also be able to offer guidance and personal next steps based on your situation.

Are there any mandatory background checks required for tenants occupying a new rental unit? How are background checks conducted?

As of July 2013, all persons that are 18 or above must provide a report of activity for Iowa Courts Online as well as a report from the Iowa Sex Offender registry, and the National Sex Offender website. Landlords who may also want to screen tenants further can do so online through public records on evictions, bankruptcy, outstanding Iowa warrants, and more. For a small fee, a good resource to conduct background checks on is **rentprep.com**.

Are there any limits on security deposits? When do they need to be returned?

In the state of Iowa, landlords cannot charge higher than the equivalent of two months' rent. Landlords then have 30 days after the tenant(s) vacate the premises and return the keys to then return the security deposit.

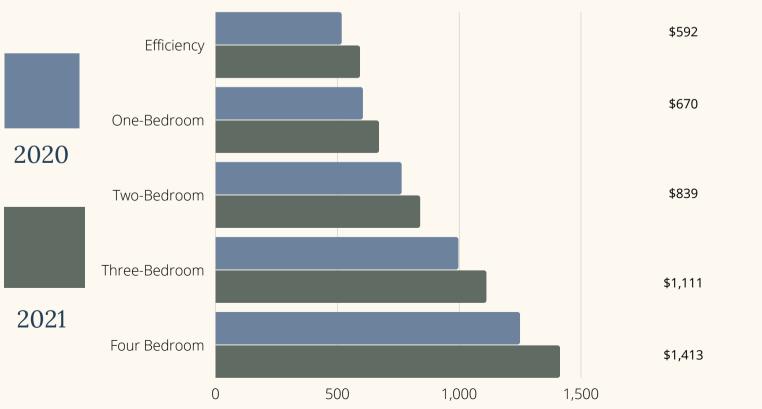


HUD Fair Housing Prices

Whether you are a landlord who is just beginning to host tenants, or a renter hoping to sign a new lease, it is important to have current information on the value of renting in Waterloo.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a database that maintains current and past information regarding fair renting prices in various cities across the United States.

The graph below shows the fair rental prices for Waterloo in 2020 and 2021 for various sized units.



2021 Fair Market Rent



Contact List (Phone Number and Email)

Mayor's Office

Quentin Hart - (319)-291-4301 or quentin.hart@waterloo-ia.org

Building Inspection Director

Greg Ahlhelm - (319)-291-4319 or greg.ahlhelm@waterloo-ia.org

City Attorney Martin Petersen – (319)-291-4327 or martin.petersen@waterloo-ia.org

City Clerk Kelley Felchie – (319)-291-4323 or kelley.felchie@waterloo-ia.org

Housing Authority Director

Julie Dawson - (319)-233-0201 or julie.dawson@waterloo-ia.org

Human Rights Commission Director

Abraham Funchess - (319)-291-4441 or abraham.funchess@waterloo-ia.org

Waste Management Director John LaPointe – (319)-291-4553 or john.lapointe@waterloo-ia.org

Iowa Legal Aid (Waterloo) Various Attorneys - (319)-235-7008 or info@iowalaw.org

Black Hawk Landlord Group

Director of Services - BlackHawkLandlord@gmail.com