

## Get Help (continued)

### Contact Legal Aid

Text Legal Aid @ 216.242.1544 with the message FAQ LEAD for a link to information and resources about lead poisoning.

Call Legal Aid's intake line or visit your local Legal Aid office (see back for address details).

**Phone Intake:** 888.817.3777 *or*

**In-person Intakes:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Legal Aid's Brief Advice Clinics:

Want to talk in-person with an attorney? In addition to in-person and phone intake, Legal Aid offers Brief Advice Clinics in neighborhoods throughout Northeast Ohio. At the Clinics you can talk in-person with an attorney and ask questions about your legal problem. **Text 216.242.1544 with the message LAS CLINIC for date and location of next clinic or visit [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org) for a complete schedule.**

### Contact the Bar Association

Contact your local bar association for a referral to a private attorney.

**Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association:**  
216.696.3532

**Lorain County Bar Association:**  
440.323.8416

**Lake County, Ohio Bar Association:**  
440.350.5800

**Geauga County Bar Association:**  
440.286.7160

**Ashtabula County Bar Association:**  
440.415.4503



The  
**Legal Aid Society**  
of Cleveland  
*Since 1905*

*This brochure was prepared by Legal Aid, which serves low-income residents of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties in Northeast Ohio.*

#### Intake Line for New Legal Cases

Toll Free: 888.817.3777

#### Tenant Information Line

Call for info related to tenants' rights and rental housing.  
(This line does not provide legal advice.)

216.861.5955

Learn more about Legal Aid and  
upcoming brief advice clinics:

**[www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org)**

#### Legal Aid Offices:

##### Cleveland & Administrative Offices

1223 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

##### Elyria Office

1530 West River Road, Suite 301, Elyria, Ohio 44035

##### Jefferson Office

121 East Walnut Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

##### Painesville Office

8 North State Street, Suite 300, Painesville, OH 44077

*If you have a communications limitation, contact Legal Aid through the Ohio Relay Service at 800.750.0750.* 

*Legal Aid offers interpretation and translation services so those with limited English proficiency can communicate with Legal Aid staff in their dominant and/or preferred language.*

*The information in this brochure cannot take the place of advice from a lawyer. Each case is different and needs individual legal advice. You should contact a lawyer if you need representation or if you have questions.*



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# Lead Poisoning: Know Your Rights, Remedies & Resources



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**[www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org)**

## Get Tested for Lead

### Young Children at Risk

Children 6 years old and under are at most risk for damage from lead poisoning. Children may be at risk of lead poisoning if:

- They live in or visit a home built before 1978.
- Paint is peeling on windows or doors.
- Large patches of bare dirt are exposed around their home.

### Child Testing

Have your child's doctor test your child's blood lead levels. If you are covered by Medicaid, the lead screening will be covered. If the blood lead level is above 5 µg/dl there is cause for concern.

If the blood lead level is above 10 µg/dl, Ohio law requires the Ohio Department of Health or a local health department to inspect the child's home for lead hazards. Update your contact information with the child's doctor to ensure the Department of Health can inspect.

### Home Testing

Call the Ohio Department of Health at 877.532.3723 to get more information on having the place a child lives or visits tested for lead. Cleveland residents should call 216.664.2175. Other Cuyahoga County residents should call 216.201.2000.

## Get the Lead Out

### Tenants

If you live in a rental unit built before 1978, notify your landlord in writing if there is any peeling paint, large patches of bare dirt on the premises, or if your child has lead poisoning and request that your landlord make repairs. Date the letter and keep a copy for your records. If your landlord fails to make repairs within 30 days, under Ohio law you may:

- Deposit your rent in escrow at the court. You must be current in rent payments to use this process. See step by step directions for rent depositing at: <https://tinyurl.com/LegalAidRentDeposit>.
- Apply to the court to order the landlord to make repairs to lead hazards.
- Terminate your lease and move.

**Depositing rent may waive your rights to sue your landlord for any injury resulting from the lead poisoning.** To consider any claims against your landlord, consult with an attorney before depositing rent.

Call Legal Aid if your landlord files an eviction or raises your rent after you have provided notice of a lead condition or because you have contacted the Health Department because of lead conditions.

### Homeowners

Contact your local public health authorities for information on assistance programs to make your home lead-safe. Federal law requires disclosure of any known lead hazard at the time of sale.

## Get Help

### Help Your Child

Lead poisoning may have long term effects including attention difficulties, behavior problems, or learning challenges. A nutritional diet early on may help. For more information see: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

### Early Intervention

A child under the age of 3 years old that has been lead poisoned may qualify for early intervention Help Me Grow services, even if they are not showing signs of delay. Call Help Me Grow at 800.755.4769.

### Special Education

If a child has learning or behavior problems in school, ask the school to evaluate the child for special education services. Let the school know the child was lead poisoned, and it is impacting the child's education.

- Put the request in writing.
- Date the request and keep a copy.
- If you are not given a written response within 30 days, contact Legal Aid.

### Personal Injury Suit

You may have claims if your child has been lead poisoned. Lawsuits based on lead poisoning may be difficult to prove. Call your local bar association to consult with an attorney who handles personal injury claims.