

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

Case Number: _____

Division: _____

Defendant(s).

EVICTION SUMMONS/RESIDENTIAL
(SOUTH SARASOTA COUNTY)

TO: (insert name, address, and phone number of tenant)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

You are being sued by _____ (insert landlord's name) to require you to move out of the property located at _____ for the reasons given in the attached complaint.

You are entitled to a trial to decide whether you can be required to move, but you **MUST** do ALL of the things listed below. You must do them within 5 days (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays) after the date these papers were given to you or to a person who lives with you or were posted at your home.

THE THINGS YOU MUST DO TO CHALLENGE THE EVICTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Write down the reason(s) why you think you should not be forced to move. (You may use Florida Supreme Court Form 1.947(b), Answer – Residential Eviction, to do this.) The written reason(s) must be given to the Clerk of the Court at the Sarasota County Courthouse, P.O. Box 3079, Sarasota, Florida 34230.

2. Mail or take a copy of your written reason(s) to:

_____ (insert landlord's name and address).

3. Pay the Clerk of the Court the rent that is due. You **MUST** pay the Clerk of the Court the rent each time it becomes due until the lawsuit is over. Whether you win or lose the lawsuit, the judge may release the rent to the landlord. [By statute, public housing tenants or tenants receiving rent subsidies must be required to pay only that portion of the full rent for which the tenant is responsible under federal, state, or local program in which they are participating.]

4. If you and the landlord do not agree on the amount of rent owed, you must file a written request (motion) that asks the judge to decide how much money you must pay to the Clerk of the Court. The written request must be filed with your answer to the eviction complaint. A copy of your motion must also be mailed or hand delivered to the plaintiff(s) attorney, or if the plaintiff(s) has no attorney, to the plaintiff.

IF YOU DO NOT DO ALL OF THESE THINGS WITHIN 5 DAYS (NOT INCLUDING SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, AN LEGAL HOLIDAYS FOR YOUR COURTHOUSE) YOU MAY BE EVICTED WITHOUT A HEARING OR FURTHER NOTICE.

ACTION FOR BACK RENT OR OTHER DAMAGES

5. Each defendant is further required to serve written defenses to the demand for back rent or any other damages alleged in the complaint on the above

_____ (insert landlord’s name and address)
within 20 days after service of this summons on the defendant, exclusive of the day of service, and to file the original of the written defenses with the Clerk of the Court either before service on _____ (insert landlord’s name) or thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against the defendant for the relief demanded in that portion of the complaint.

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may contact Legal Aid of Manasota at (941) 366-0038 or <https://www.legalaidofmanasota.org> Gulf Legal Services at (800) 230-5920 or <https://www.gulfcoastlegal.org>, or United Way of South County, Inc. at (941) 484-4811 or <https://www.uwssc.org>. If you do not qualify for free legal assistance or do not know an attorney, you may use an attorney referral service or contact the Florida Bar Referral Service at (800) 342-8011 or <https://www.floridabar.org/public/lrs/>.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Sarasota County Jury Office, P.O. Box 3079, Sarasota, FL 34230-3079, (941) 861-7400, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

**THE STATE OF FLORIDA:
TO EACH SHERIFF OF THE STATE:**

YOU ARE COMMANDED to serve this summons and a copy of the complaint in this lawsuit on the above-named defendant.

DATED on the ____ day of _____, 20____.

**KAREN E. RUSHING
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk