

Just the Facts: Right to Counsel Stops Evictions in NYC

In 2017, the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition won a campaign to guarantee low-income tenants the right to a lawyer when facing an eviction in housing court. The law is currently being implemented in 25 NYC zip codes, and will be fully phased-in by 2022.

Here are several key facts that show how the law has been a huge success in decreasing evictions in NYC:



- In 2018 and 2019, **84%** of tenants who had a Right to Counsel (RTC) lawyer were able to remain in their homes. This is **10,636** families and **28,392** individuals.
- In 2019, evictions in NYC were down **15%**—the largest single-year decrease since RTC began.
- RTC is the cause of most of the decline in evictions. Evictions have dropped **29%** in RTC zip codes since the law began—nearly double the rate of comparable zip codes.
- In 2013, only **1%** of tenants had a lawyer in housing court. By the end of June 2019 **32%** of tenants citywide had a lawyer, while **62%** of tenants in RTC zip codes had a lawyer.
- Eviction filings declined by **5.4%** in 2018, meaning landlords sued **12,357** fewer families than the previous year. In 2019, filings declined by **6%**, as landlords sued **13,491** fewer families.
- RTC also helps preserve the city's affordable housing stock, by keeping long-term, rent-stabilized tenants in their homes. More than **50%** of families who have used RTC have lived in their homes for more than **6 years**, and more than **40%** lived in their homes for more than **10 years**.

Sources:

Office of the Mayor

NYC Office of Civil Justice Universal Access 2019 Report

NYC Office of Civil Justice 2018 Annual Report

Right to Counsel and Stronger Rent Laws Helped Reduce Evictions in 2019, a report by the Community Service Society of New York

NYC Right to Counsel: First year results and potential for expansion, a report by the Community Service Society of New York

Forced Moves and Eviction in New York City, a report by Robin Hood and the Columbia Population Research Center

The Effect of Evictions on Low-Income Households, 2018 study

WEB: www.righttocounselnyc.org www.evictionfreenyc.org **EMAIL:** info@righttocounselnyc.org **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/RTCNY **TWITTER:** www.twitter.com/RTCNY

