

**DISTRICT COURT****ANSWER DEFENDANT/TENANT**

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|--|---|
| | Civil Action File Number |
| Plaintiff/Landlord | Attorney for the Plaintiff/Landlord or the Plaintiff/Landlord |
| Defendant/Tenant | Address of the Plaintiff/Landlord's Attorney or the Plaintiff/Landlord |
| Attorney for the Defendant/Tenant or the Defendant/Tenant | Address of the Defendant/Tenant's Attorney or the Defendant/Tenant |

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Murray Judicial Complex 2nd Division District Court 45 Washington Square Newport, Rhode Island 02840-2913 (401) 841-8350 | <input type="checkbox"/> Noel Judicial Complex 3rd Division District Court 222 Quaker Lane Warwick, Rhode Island 02886-0107 (401) 822-6750 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McGrath Judicial Complex 4th Division District Court 4800 Tower Hill Road Wakefield, Rhode Island 02879-2239 (401) 782-4131 | <input type="checkbox"/> Garrahy Judicial Complex 6th Division District Court One Dorrance Plaza Providence, Rhode Island 02903-2719 (401) 458-5400 |

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DEFENDANT/TENANT

Listed below are several possible defenses to the eviction action that the Plaintiff/Landlord has filed against you. If one or more of these defenses apply to your case, check the appropriate box(es). If space is provided, write in facts in support of that defense. Use additional paper if necessary. Some of these defenses are technical and there may be others not listed here. You may consult a lawyer and seek representation before filling out this Answer.



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DEFENDANT/TENANT’S ANSWER

The complaint against me is untrue or fails to state the following facts:

I have offered rent, but the Plaintiff/Landlord refused it. I am still able and willing to pay the rent.

I have a defense for nonpayment because the Plaintiff/Landlord has failed to maintain the premises in a fit and habitable condition.

My rent has not been paid, but I have a legally justifiable defense for not paying:

I have a written lease which does not expire until _____.

I have not received the required notice from the Plaintiff/Landlord before this Complaint was served on me.

The Plaintiff/Landlord is trying to evict me because I have exercised my legal rights by calling code enforcement officials or by taking the following protected action:

I have other defenses as follows: _____

_____.

WHEREFORE, because of the defense(s) indicated above, I ask that the court to grant judgment in my favor and not order me to be evicted.

COUNTERCLAIM

Instructions: If you believe that you are entitled to be awarded damages or money for any reason from the Plaintiff/Landlord, you may fill out the statement below:

1. I hereby sue the Plaintiff/Landlord for the amount of \$_____.



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2. I believe that I am entitled to receive an award of this amount because _____

_____.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| /s/ _____ Attorney for the Defendant/Tenant or the Defendant/Tenant | Rhode Island Bar Number: |
| | Date: |
| Telephone Number: | |

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the _____ day of _____, 20____:

I filed and served this document through the electronic filing system on the following parties:

_____.

The document electronically filed and served is available for viewing and/or downloading from the Rhode Island Judiciary's Electronic Filing System.

I served this document through the electronic filing system on the following parties:

_____.

The document electronically served is available for viewing and/or downloading from the Rhode Island Judiciary's Electronic Filing System.

I mailed or hand-delivered this document to the attorney for the opposing party and/or the opposing party if self-represented, whose name is _____ at the following address _____.

/s/ _____
Name

