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Queens Family of Eight Faces No Cause Eviction from Their Home of Over Nine Years

In Response, Legal Aid Attorneys Call on Albany to Enact “Good Cause” to Equip Residents of Unregulated Units With Basic Tenant Protections

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society called on Albany lawmakers to enact “[Good Cause](#)” legislation in response to a [report](#) about Legal Aid clients, a family of eight, who have lived in their Queens home for over nine years and who are facing a no cause eviction.

The family’s eldest son is in the military and deployed abroad, and their daughter attends Columbia University. The family is hardworking and up to date on their rent, yet their landlord is attempting to evict them, and because they live in a non-regulated building, the family has no legal recourse to fight the eviction.

“Good Cause” eviction, which New York State legislators seemed to support on the Senate and Assembly [one-house budgets](#), is the only measure that could help this family remain in their home.

“As New York’s largest housing defense practice, we see this scenario all too often. Hardworking families that do everything right and deserve stable, safe, and affordable housing, find themselves facing eviction simply because of their landlord’s whim,” said **Jay Hedges, staff attorney in the Queens Housing Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “These tenants need ‘Good Cause’ protection now, and we urge Albany lawmakers to include this measure in the final adopted budget come April.”

Across New York City, egregious reports have been published about families in unregulated apartments, who have been model tenants in their long-term homes, yet face no cause eviction. The *New York Daily News* [reported](#) on a Bronx family of ten, a couple and their eight children, ages six to twenty; *Patch* [reported](#) on a man who has lived in his home for 15 years; *Pix11* covered a formerly homeless family of ten who could be forced back into the shelter system; and *amNew York* [ran](#) a story on a single mother who cares for her daughter and elderly, disabled mother, and has lived in her Brooklyn home for nearly 15 years.

All of these tenants' lives are being upended as they face eviction simply because of their landlord's whim. "Good Cause" would help them remain in their home.

Background on "Good Cause"

"Good Cause" would require landlords to demonstrate a justification or "good cause" for evicting tenants in unregulated units, and would protect tenants from exorbitant rent hikes, restricting rent increases to either three percent or 1.5 times the inflation rate, whichever is higher.

The budget-neutral legislation would prevent landlords from denying lease renewals to tenants who have consistently abided by the terms of their leases, allowing tenants to advocate for repairs without the fear of retaliation.

The legislation has robust support across the state, with nearly [70 percent of New Yorkers, including policy and political science experts](#) from all levels of government, in favor of passing Good Cause. [Leaders of New York's largest labor unions](#) and [New York State Attorney General Letitia James](#) also support "Good Cause".

In January, Legal Aid released an [analysis](#) of City data which [revealed](#) that since the statewide eviction moratorium lapsed last year, executed evictions in New York City have increased almost every month.

While it is unclear which of these evictions are related to non-payment or a holdover, it is safe to conclude that many of these tenants would have benefited if "Good Cause" were enacted statewide, given the depth and breadth of the legislation.

Legal Aid Housing Court attorneys currently represent New Yorkers in hundreds of no-cause holdovers across the five boroughs, often involving the most vulnerable tenants, whose eviction would be avoided should "Good Cause" pass into law.

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