

Housing Tips – Criminal Background

Having a criminal background, particularly a felony, makes a rental housing search difficult. However, you can do a few things to give yourself a better chance of finding a place to live without wasting a lot of money on application fees. Here they are:

1. Know who you are.

- a. What is your criminal background?
- b. What is your [monthly income](#)?
- c. What is your [credit score](#)?
- d. What is your [rental history](#)?

2. Get the landlord's rental criteria in writing.

- a. What past criminal activity do they decline?
- b. How much income do they require?
- c. What credit scores will they accept?
- d. What are their rental history requirements?

3. What should you do if you don't meet the rental criteria?

- a. Briefly share what happened in your past (the criminal issue).
- b. Explain what you have done to improve your life or get over the issue.
- c. Ask the landlord to be flexible with their criteria.

4. Only apply for the apartment or pay an application fee if you meet all of the criteria.

Talk with the landlord to confirm he or she will accept your criminal background and any other issues like bad credit or rental history.

www.housinglink.org