



Prosper Springfield – Do You Know About Tenant’s Rights?

The Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association and Drew Lewis Foundation at the Fairbanks are uniting resources to inform anyone who rents a home or apartment in Springfield Zone 1 about their rights as a renter. The Drew Lewis Foundation offers programming via the N. W. Project at the Fairbanks and other community resources to benefit families from diverse backgrounds through social, physical, and educational activities. Partnering with the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association, they are providing a free workshop, a free meal, and free childcare.

If you want to know more about your rights as a tenant, sign up for this free workshop. Dan Wichmer, a local lawyer and the Executive Director of Legal Services of Southwest Missouri, will lead the workshop about Tenant’s Rights. Topics include how to avoid eviction, how to get repairs made, and how to get your deposit returned. After the workshop, lawyers will stay to consult with individual tenants. Attendance is limited to 50, so sign up soon. To register, call 417-831-2783 or register online at springfieldbar.com. Also sign up to bring your children because during the workshop, the “Legal Beagle Book Club” will provide games and activities for children. The workshop, with a free dinner and free childcare will be held February 27 at the Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Avenue from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

When the USA was young, Thomas Jefferson campaigned for more education because he knew that “knowledge is power.” After the workshop, when you know your rights as a renter, combine your knowledge by telling family and friends. By sharing your knowledge, you too can combine resources to improve lives. The Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association scheduled three more public workshops at the Fairbanks during 2018:

- Home Ownership, Financing and Foreclosure: April 24
- Fresh Start: Sealing Criminal Records: June 26
- Simple Estate Planning: August 28

Springfield has more ongoing help available through the United Way of the Ozarks 211 application with information about agencies that focus on helping people, including renters. You can contact 211 just by dialing 211 any time day or night or through the website, 211Helps.org. Prosper Springfield is committed to promoting many ways our community is combining powerful resources and information to improve the lives of local families.

Prosper Springfield is a collective impact initiative focused on a shared community vision to improve economic mobility in the Springfield community. The Prosper Springfield mission is to build community relationships and align community resources to create pathways that help move people to prosperity. The column will run every other Thursday. Today’s column was co-written by Sharon Ellard, a Give Five volunteer and Prosper Springfield Director, Francine Pratt. For more information about Prosper Springfield, contact Francine Pratt at 417-888-2020. Prosper Springfield - Uniting Resources. Improving Lives.