

Justice in the Sewers Legal Guide

You may need to talk to a lawyer if your landlord won't repair a sewage problem. The below organizations may offer free legal help.



Lone Star Legal Aid

Represents clients in civil litigation, including disputes involving environmental justice, disaster recovery, and fair housing.

800-733-8394

<https://www.lonestarlegal.org/get-help/>

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Association

Aims to connect Houston residents with free legal help, including housing issues.

www.makejusticehappen.org

University of Houston Civil Justice Clinic

Represents clients in civil litigation, including landlord/tenant and real property disputes.

713-743-2094

Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc.

Represents clients in some housing issues.

713-313-4455

Earthjustice, Gulf Region Office

Handles court and administrative impact litigation involving environmental issues.

<https://earthjustice.org/about/request-legal-assistance>

Justice in the Sewers Legal Guide

If the city's system backed up your pipes and damaged your home or made you sick, you might be entitled to reimbursement.



The city is liable for personal injuries or destruction of property, **but** you must give notice that is (1) written, (2) signed before a Notary Public, and (3) mailed within **90 days** of the damage.

The written notice must include:

- A statement of when, where, and how the damage occurred;
- A statement of the extent of the damage;
- The amount of damage sustained;
- The amount for which you would be willing to settle;
- Your residence, including street and number;
- Your residence six months before the damage occurred; and
- Names and addresses of witnesses.

Send this information with your claim, if possible:

- Three property damage estimates;
- Photographs of the damage, if any;
- An accident report, if available;
- A photocopy of Certificate of Title of damaged vehicle, if any
- A photocopy of medical bills, if any; and
- Doctor's narrative, if any.

All of the above should be mailed to:

City Secretary's Office, City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251-1562

City Attorney's Office
Attn: Claims/Subrogation Division
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251-1562