

What happens in Court

Housing Fact Sheet

What happens in Court – Possession Hearings

Preparing for Court

- Make sure you have made Child Care arrangements as Children are not permitted in the Courts.
- Be prepared to wait for your hearing, they do not always happen on time.
- If you wish to bring someone with you for support that is fine.
- Make sure you arrive in good time.

When you arrive in Court

- You will probably be asked to empty your pockets and may well be searched.
- Report to the ushers desk. Tell the usher who you are and the time of your hearing.
- A member of the Estates Team will be attending. Speak to them as it may not be too late to make an agreement.

The Hearing

- The usher will call your case as Central Bedfordshire Council versus you. Both yourself and the Estates Officer will then go with the usher to see the District Judge.
- The hearing will be heard in a private room, usually the Judge will use equipment to record the evidence.
- Please address the Judge as Sir or Madam.
- Normally the Judge will hear first from the Estates Officer then from you.

What options does the Judge have?

Adjourn generally

This means the District Judge has decided that at the moment no order will be made against you, but we can re-apply for another hearing, within one year, if your arrears do not reduce.

Adjourn on terms

This means that no order will be made against you so long as you pay a specified amount regularly. Again if this is not kept to, we can reapply for another hearing.

Suspended Possession Order

This means that the District Judge has ruled that you should pay a certain amount, usually your current rent plus an amount to reduce your rent arrears. If you break the order, we can apply for a warrant to evict you. Costs incurred will be charged to your rent account.

A County Court Judgement will also be awarded which may affect your credit rating.

Possession Order

This means we can apply for a warrant to evict you in the time specified by the order, this can be immediately or after 7, 14 or 28 days.

What happens if you dont turn up?

The hearing will still go ahead in your absence.

Where can I get advice from?

Estates Officer 0300 300 8046

The County Court

Luton

0844 8920550

Milton Keynes

01908 302800

Shelter Housing Advice Helpline

0808 800 4444

Citizen Advice Bureau

Dunstable

Grove House

76 High Street North

Dunstable

Bedfordshire

LU6 1NF

01582 670003

Citizens Advice Bureau

Leighton Buzzard

Bossard House

West Street

Leighton Buzzard

Bedfordshire

LU7 1DA

01525 373878

Contact us...

Për Informacion

Per Informazione

Za Informacije

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برای اطلاع

المعلومات

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Za Informacja

by telephone: 0300 300 8000

by [email: customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ