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THE NORTH WEST RENTAL HOUSING TRIBUNAL INFORMATION BROCHURE





## What Does the North West Rental Housing Tribunal do?

- The North West Rental Housing Tribunal administers the Rental Housing Act 50 of 1999; the Tribunal facilitates the sounds relations between the tenants and the landlords who rent residential properties.
- One of the Tribunal's responsibilities is to educate, provide information and advice tenants and landlords with regard to their rights and obligations in relation to dwellings within its area of jurisdiction.
- Any tenant or landlord, group of tenants, landlords, Tribunal concerning an unfair practice. Once a complaint has been lodged the parties have an opportunity to have their problems addressed at a mediation to achieve a negotiated settlement or hearing
- Where the Tribunal is of view that the dispute is of such a nature that it cannot be resolved through mediation or mediator has issued a certificate to the effect that the parties are unable to resolve the dispute through mediation, conduct a hearing and makes such a ruling as it may consider just and fair in the circumstances. A ruling of the Tribunal is deemed to be an order of a magistrate's court in terms of the Magistrate's Court Act, 1944 (Act No 32 of 1944)
- Any person who has been duly summoned to appear before the Tribunal and fails, without sufficient notice will be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both such fine and such imprisonment.

What is the North West Rental Housing Tribunal?

The North West Rental Housing Tribunal is the quasi-judicial body established in terms of the Rental Housing Act 50, of 1999 and it serves a regulatory function. It promotes stability in the rental housing sector by resolving disputes that arise between tenants and landlords.

Who is covered by the Rental Housing Act no 50 of 1999?

The Act covers any house, hostel room, hut, shack, flat, apartment, room, outbuilding, garage or similar structure which is leased, as well as any store room, outbuilding, and garage or demarcated parking space which is leased as part of the lease. The Act does not cover commercial tenancies.



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What are Key areas of operation?

- Non refund of deposit
- Nonpayment of rents
- Lease that are not in compliance with the law
- Lock-outs and evictions without a court order
- Lack of maintenance of a dwelling
- Harassment and intimidation

How can I lodge a complaint with the Rental Housing Tribunal?

Complaints Lodged with the Tribunal must be in writing in the prescribed form available at the Tribunal offices. Complaints must be lodge:

- By mail to the office of the Tribunal
- At the relevant Rental Housing Information office within the jurisdiction of the local municipality in which the dwelling is situated
- By delivery at the office of the Tribunal office
- By facsimile and/or e-mail to office of the Tribunal
- Cover commercial tenancies.

