

The Discriminatory Enforcement of Illinois' Crime-Free Housing and Nuisance Ordinances

Understanding Why We Need **SB 2264**

Crime-Free Housing and Nuisance Ordinances (CFNOs) are local laws that **force or pressure landlords to evict tenants based on 911 calls or alleged “nuisance” activity, even without evidence, charges, arrests, or convictions.** These ordinances destabilize housing for survivors of violence, disproportionately target marginalized communities, unlawfully punish youth, increase eviction rates, and undermine public safety.

CFNO PROCESS MAP



HARM CAUSED BY CFNOS IN ILLINOIS:

Evicting Tenants for Calling 911

In **Elgin**, 57% of all enforcement actions were for “excessive calls for service.”

Endangering Gender-Based Violence Survivors

In **Belleville**, 119 of the 260 (~46%) CFNO enforcement actions examined in our report were triggered by instances of gender-based violence.

Criminalizing Disabilities and Medical Crises

In **West Chicago**, a mother was evicted for calling 911 to help her suicidal son. In **Granite City**, overdose survivors were evicted despite Good Samaritan protections.

Increasing Evictions

In **Belleville**, nearly 200 CFNO-related evictions occurred from 2021 to 2024.

Data obtained from Freedom of Information Act Requests

CFNOs Violate State Laws

These Illinois laws already provide tenant protections, but municipalities are disregarding them.

65 ILCS 5/1-2-1.5: Protects tenants from penalties related to incidents and emergency service calls associated with domestic or sexual violence and disabilities.

Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/3-102.5: Prohibits discrimination based on nonconviction arrest records and juvenile records.

Discriminating by Race

In **Addison** (2021–2024), 78% of CFNO enforcement targeted Hispanic/Latino renters—despite their comprising only 46% of the population. Enforcement escalated as white populations declined in cities like **Palatine** (-14%) and **Elgin** (-17%).

Crime-Free Housing and Nuisance Ordinances (CFNOs) **do not reduce crime**—they make communities less safe by deterring emergency calls and destabilizing families.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do CFNOs exclusively target serious crime?

A: No. CFNOs often penalize alleged minor infractions rather than serious crimes.

In DeKalb, CFNOs were enforced for noise complaints and “false reports.” Regardless of conviction, tenants can face eviction based on citations or arrests alone.

In Addison, tenants were cited for hosting a backyard party.

Q: Do CFNOs reduce crime?

A: No. There is no evidence that CFNOs reduce crime. Instead, they decrease safety by discouraging people from calling 911 for help.

In Palatine, 41% of CFNO enforcement actions in 2023 were triggered by tenants seeking help.

Q: Do CFNOs harm survivors of gender-based violence or people with disabilities?

A: Yes. CFNOs disproportionately harm vulnerable populations.

In West Chicago, a mother was evicted after calling 911 for her suicidal son.

57% of enforcement actions In Rolling Meadows involved survivors of gender-based violence.

Illinois must pass **SB 2264**.

SUPPORT **SB 2264** IN ORDER TO:

✓ **Remove Criminalization of Calling 911.**

No survivor of domestic violence, person with a disability, or any resident can be penalized or evicted for calling the police or emergency services.

✓ **Protect Families from Eviction.**

When a local ordinance does result in an eviction, it can only be filed against the person convicted of a crime, not the entire household.

✓ **Limit Enforcement to Serious Felonies.**

Restricts local ordinances that would result in the eviction or a lease non-renewal for a tenant, except in the case of convictions for murder, a Class X felony, or Class 1 felony that occurred on the property.

✓ **Provide Illinois Residents with Legal Actions.**

Aggrieved parties will be able to sue municipalities, counties, or housing authorities for enforcing these ordinances, seeking injunctive relief and damages.

TAKE ACTION

We need your support to protect tenants’ right to call 911, ensure due process in eviction proceedings, and stop harming renters.

SB 2264 is how we can protect renters, uphold civil rights, and stop cities from using housing policies as a tool of discrimination.

Despite state and federal protections, municipalities in Illinois continue to illegally enforce CFNOs, demonstrating that local reforms are not enough.