

STREET LAW SMARTS #2

EVIDENCE TIPS

After a negative experience, regardless of what actions you want to take or how you plan to deal with the problem, **evidence is essential!** (e.g: broken toilet which the landlord has not fixed; being verbally or physically abused; not being paid minimum wage; being discriminated against; any type of accident you have been involved with).

Examples of Evidence

- identifying notes
- pictures and videos
- witnesses
- medical reports
- police reports
- estimates (i.e. clothing or furniture repair costs)

Evidence Tips: Identifying Notes

Right after the incident, write down **all** the details you can remember.

- Date and time
- Location
- All details of what happened
- Witnesses
- Appearance of the person (height, hair style, weight)?

Evidence Tips: Witnesses

Get the **name, address, phone number, and email address** of anyone who saw the incident.

Ask any witnesses to write down what they saw right away so they don't forget the details (make sure **they date and sign** their notes).

Make **a copy** of the witnesses' notes. Ask the witness to keep one copy, and keep one for yourself.

Evidence Tips: Medical Records

- If injured (even a scrape or bruise), have a doctor **examine** the injuries
- Tell the doctor what happened (all injuries) and that you need a copy of his or her notes
- Ask the doctor to **photocopy** the notes taken during the appointment so they can be used in the case
- **Keep** receipts if medical service was paid for
- If injuries don't get better or get worse, **keep going back** to the doctor to document them

Evidence Tips: Pictures & Videos

- It is best to use a camera that puts **a date** on the images
- It could be a picture or recording of the injury caused to the body or property, or the place where the problem happened
- Take pictures **from a few different angles** of the area where the problem happened
- Take pictures of all the injuries (it is best if the person taking the pictures can come to court/tribunal)
- Ask any nearby stores or businesses if they have a **security camera** (do this quickly because some are destroyed within 24 hours). Write a dated, signed letter asking them to save the tapes and explain why. Keep a copy of the letter for your records.