

RENTAL TIPS

Criminal Background



YOUR HOUSING SEARCH IS LIKE A JOB SEARCH

Dress nicely when meeting landlords. Communicate politely and straight to the point. Explain to the landlord why you would be a good fit for the property.



KNOW THE LANDLORD'S CRIMINAL BACKGROUND POLICY

If you plan to ask the landlord to make an exception to their policy, be honest about your background. Briefly explain why you do not meet their rental criteria, explaining why an incident (or incidents) was isolated and unforeseen, and what steps you have taken to make sure it does not happen again. Be honest, but do not give more detail than is needed unless the landlord asks. Keep in mind not all landlords are able to make exceptions to this criteria.



COMMUNICATE PAST MISTAKES AS CURRENT STRENGTHS

Explain how your experiences have impacted who you are today, and why that would make you a good renter for their unit. Landlords care most about 3 things in a renter - getting rent paid, the unit being cared for, and if someone can be a good neighbor. Show them how you can do these things!



WHEN SHOULD YOU PAY AN APPLICATION FEE?

Wait to pay an application fee until you either meet the landlord's rental criteria 100% or when you feel confident a landlord is prepared to make an exception for your specific circumstances.

Visit n2n.org for more rental tips!