

Milwaukee woman evicted from home left dilapidated by landlord

Written by Wisconsin Examiner Republish

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<http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/WI-EXAM/evicted-milwhome-s450.png>



“I’m just so deeply hurt because I feel like I’m failing myself, I’m failing my family. If I get put out, what am I going to look like? Like, ‘Wow, what happened to Nanny? Why she ain’t got no house? Why Nanny got to keep coming over here?’” – Patricia Williams, a tenant facing eviction in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE - “Right now, I’m still frustrated, I’m scared ‘cause I don’t know what I’m going to do,” Patricia Williams tells Wisconsin Examiner as she sits on the front porch of the place she called home for nearly a decade. “I don’t know where I’m going to go.” Like many others across Milwaukee County, the 62-year-old mother to four and grandmother to 19 is getting evicted by her landlord.



Patricia Williams (Photo | Isiah Holmes)

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Wisconsin no longer has any eviction bans in place. The federal eviction moratorium ended last August, and landlords can now file for eviction for nonpayment of rent. In Milwaukee, [evictions have surged](#) to pre-pandemic levels.

[According to Eviction Lab](#)

, 191 evictions have been filed in the last week. Over 21,000 have been filed since March, 2020. On Wednesday, waiting for the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office to arrive and conduct the eviction, Williams braced for what will be an uncertain future.

She had lived in the house since 2013. It belonged to her ex-husband's mother before it was acquired by the city. Her landlord, Athlene Alexis, who owns EKCJ LLC, bought the home from the city in late 2015. "When the city took the house we had to start paying \$500 a month," says Williams. Suddenly, living in the home on N. 21st Street on Milwaukee's predominately African American North Side, was a financial strain.



Damage to the front steps of Patricia Williams' home. (Photo | Isiah Holmes)

In the years prior, "it was free because it belonged to my ex-husband's family," says Williams. "And then soon as Alexis bought it in December 2015, she jacked the rent up to \$850." When the rent was raised again to \$950 during the pandemic, Williams began to push back. "You ain't been in this house since you bought it to do no work," Williams told the landlord.

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To earn money, Williams works as a construction contractor and does work on homes. Most of Williams' belongings had been moved out by Tuesday, and the disrepair the home had fallen into was evident. The front steps and porch, made of old, sun-bleached wood, was missing planks in places. Williams points out to Wisconsin Examiner that each of the home's air vents is severely damaged.



Patricia Williams shows reporters the disrepair to the home. (Photo | Isiah Holmes)

Jagged cracks stream down the walls of the nearly 100-year-old home, and in many places the paint is stained and peeling. Williams says she wasn't allowed to paint the rooms. The oven is damaged, and mouse droppings litter the pantry shelves, and the inside of the refrigerator. The bathtub needs to be replaced, and exposed wires run all over the house, especially in the basement, where Williams' family long tracked the source of the mouse problem. No effort has apparently been made by the landlord to fix the pest problems.

Upstairs, where Williams spent most of her time, is similarly grim. A large metal pipe sticks out, hanging down about two feet from the ceiling. Williams says it was hammered through during roof repairs and was never fixed. Floor tiles are loose or absent and the floor is clearly warped and dips in places. The condition of the house made Williams worry for her grandchildren, who regularly visit, she says.

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