



Created by Gan Khoun Lay
from Noun Project

Living in My Car*: Do I Have Any Rights?

(*or truck, RV, or other vehicle)

-
- ❖ Read this only if you live in the state of Washington.
 - ❖ You can find all the fact sheets we link to here at WashingtonLawHelp.org.
-

I live in my car. I use it as my home. Do I have any rights?

Yes. As of August 12, 2021, a car that you live in as your primary home qualifies for protection from debt collectors. They cannot take the first \$15,000 of your car's value (equity) to collect on a court judgment against you. This protection is called a **homestead exemption**.

-
- ❖ If the car you live in was towed, and you cannot afford the impound fees, you may want to tell the judge at your impound hearing this. Talk to a lawyer. Read [They Towed My Car](#) to learn more.
-

I live in my car and use it as my home. Are any social services resources available to me?

A few cities and counties may have “safe lot” programs. These let vehicle residents park safely in certain areas. You do not have to worry about being towed. There are not many of these programs. They vary by city. **Call 211** to ask about these in your area.

Seattle has a [Scofflaw Mitigation Project](#). It is run by the [Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness](#). They work to try to help vehicle residents who face booting and impoundment because of four or more unpaid tickets. Read www.itfhomeless.org to learn more. Call 211 or this organization directly for up-to-date info. The services they offer may change.

Get Legal Help

- **Apply online** with [CLEAR*Online](https://nwjustice.org/apply-online) - nwjustice.org/apply-online
- **Facing a legal issue in King County** (other than Eviction or Foreclosure)? Call 2-1-1 (or toll-free 1-877-211-9274) weekdays 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. They will refer you to a legal aid provider.
- **Facing a legal issue outside of King County** (other than Eviction or Foreclosure)? Call the CLEAR Hotline at 1-888-201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 am - 12:15 pm or apply online at nwjustice.org/apply-online.
- **Facing Eviction?** Call 1-855-657-8387.
- **Facing Foreclosure?** Call 1-800-606-4819.
- **Seniors (age 60 and over)** with a legal issue outside of King County can also call CLEAR*Sr at 1-888-387-7111.
- **Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired callers** can call any of these numbers using the relay service of your choice.

CLEAR and 2-1-1 will provide interpreters.

This publication provides general information concerning your rights and responsibilities. It is not intended as a substitute for specific legal advice.

© 2021 Northwest Justice Project — 1-888-201-1014.

(Permission for copying and distribution granted to the Alliance for Equal Justice and to individuals for non-commercial purposes only.)