

# WHAT IS THE TENANT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACT?

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS A VERY TENANT-FRIENDLY CITY WHICH GIVES RENTERS THE OPTION TO BUY THEIR UNIT OR BUILDING BEFORE THE LANDLORD CAN SELL IT TO ANOTHER BUYER.

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# TOPA FAQs

## WILL EXERCISING MY TOPA RIGHTS EFFECT MY CURRENT RENT OR VOUCHER/SECTION 8 STATUS?

NO, REGISTERING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY THROUGH THE TOPA PROCESS DOES NOT PERMIT YOUR LANDLORDRAISE YOUR RENT OR CHANGE YOUR VOUCHER STATUS

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I CHOSE NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOPA?

IF YOU DO NOT REGISTER AN INTEREST TO PURCHASE, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ADDITIONAL TIME TO NEGOTIATE WITH YOUR LANDLORD OR ANOTHER PARTY. IN THE SITUATION OF SINGLE HOMES OR 2-4 UNIT BUILDINGS, THE NEW OWNER MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE NOTICE TO SEEK POSSESSION FOR THEMSELVES OR GIVE NOTICE OF A RENT INCREASE FOR LEASES

#### WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD ABOUT TOPA?

THE TENANT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACT (TOPA) WAS ENACTED IN 1980 IN ORDER TO HELP TENANTS WHEN THEIR HOMES ARE BEING SOLD. MANY TENANTS ARE UNAWARE OF THE RIGHTS THEY POSSESS UNDER THE TOPA LAW.

### WHY DIDNT MY LANDLORD INFORM ME OF MY RIGHTS?

LANDLORDS AND THEIR AGENTS DO NOT REPRESENT YOUR INTERESTS AND ARE OFTEN LOOKING TO COMPLETE THE SALE OF YOUR HOME AS QUICKLY AS POSSBILE YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL OFFER OF SALE BY CERTIFIED MAIL, WHICH SOMETIMES MUST BE PICKED UP AT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE.

#### **HOW MUCH MONEY ARE MY RIGHTS WORTH?**

EACH PROPERTY THAT IS SUBJECT TO TOPA IS DIFFERENT, THE SALES PRICE OF YOUR HOME, AMONGST OTHER FACTORS WILL DETERMINE WHAT DC PARTNERSHIPS CAN OFFER YOU

#### IF I SELL MY RIGHTS WILL I HAVE TO MOVE OUT?

EVERY TOPA ASSIGNMENT THAT DC PARTNERSHIPS DEALS WITH IS DIFFERENT, AND IN MANY CASES WE CAN OFFER OPTIONS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE RELOCATION

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