

Minneapolis Heating Ordinance in Effect!

Is your apartment cold? Instructions on how to get your heat turned on is below.

Greetings! My name is Toby Cryns, and I live at 1939 Bryant Ave. S. For the last few years, a grassroots movement of UPI renters who had been denied heat in their apartments over the winter months lobbied the Minneapolis City Council to update the city heating ordinance to be more renter-friendly. This movement succeeded!

The New Ordinance

Last October the City of Minneapolis adopted a new, renter-friendly law for landlords to follow. Here is what the new law says in a nutshell:

- **Rental properties must be kept at 68 degrees between Oct. 1 – May 1.**

Download links for the new ordinance can be found at <http://upirenters.wordpress.com>

What to Do if Your Apartment is Cold

If you are wearing a jacket in your apartment, you have every right under the laws of Minneapolis to take action! Follow these steps to get your heat turned on:

1. Check your apartment temperature with a thermometer (Contact me if you don't have one.).
2. If your apartment temperature is below 68 degrees, call our building manager, Ginny Carlson, at 612-685-8278 and ask her to take the appropriate action to get the heat turned on.
3. If no action is taken by UPI within a reasonable amount of time or if you get excuses or have doubts that anything will get done, dial 311 on your phone and let them know that your landlord (UPI) refuses to turn on the heat in your apartment. (FYI: 311 is the city of Minneapolis' service line)

History

Our landlord, Spiros Zorbalas, has a history of not turning on the heat during the winter months. City pages called him "The Slumlord of Minneapolis" in a front-page article last fall. A quick Google search of his name will display hundreds of articles, blog posts, and court documents showing his negligence to his renters. Personally, I have been without heat for much of the winter in two consecutive years.

More Info

If you have any questions, please email me at toby@cryns.com or call 612-284-4494. Also, visit our website for more information and links to additional resources: <http://upirenters.wordpress.com>

Finally, I have a thermometer and would be happy to stop by to get a temperature reading in your apartment if you need one.

Sincerely,
Toby Cryns