

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 5, 2011

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### **Important Notice for All Residential Tenants Affected by Storms**

As the true impact of Alabama's April tornado outbreak continues to unfold, many tenants (renters) will face an unfamiliar situation: what legal obligation to pay rent remains if the home, trailer, mobile home or apartment they occupied was destroyed. In an effort to provide comprehensive disaster relief assistance, Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc. has provided the following information and requested it be published and distributed by the news media as widely and as soon as possible:

"If you are a storm victim who rents a residential home, trailer, mobile home, or apartment that was destroyed or damaged by the recent severe weather, please note that under Alabama's *Uniform Landlord Tenant Act* you may still be liable for rent if you don't terminate your lease pursuant to Ala. Code (1975) § 35-9A-406. Under section 406 tenants only have 14 days from the casualty (or date of vacating the premises) to notify their landlord in writing that they are terminating the lease. Fourteen (14) days from the April 27, 2011 tornados is **May 11, 2011**. Also remember, if possible, to check the notice provision of your lease to make sure you comply with the notice requirements, i.e., correct address, certified mail, facsimile, and/or hand delivery. If you provide this notice, in the proper time and manner, the law requires your landlord to return all security deposits as well as pre-paid, unearned rent from the date of the event."

For additional Legal Assistance  
Alabama State Bar Disaster Assistance Hotline  
1-800-354-6154