|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This factsheet gives general legal information. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information is correct, this cannot be guaranteed. It is not a substitute for legal advice. You should always seek legal advice for a legal matter.  You can contact Suffolk Law Centre by phone on (01473) 408111, by email at [office@suffolklawcentre.org.uk](mailto:office@suffolklawcentre.org.uk), or at 46a St. Matthews Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3EP.  This Factsheet was updated on 02/04/2020 | Nationally there has been an increase in illegal evictions and harassment by landlords due to the Covid-19 situation. Most tenants will enjoy rights under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977.  **Illegal eviction** may occur when you are unlawfully prevented from entering your property. Things that could be an illegal eviction include:   * the use of violence (or threats of violence) to force you to leave your property * changing the locks while you are out * evicting you before the proper legal procedures have been followed.   **Harassment** by a landlord might occur where your landlord (or someone acting on their behalf) does something likely to interfere with the peace and comfort of those living in the property.  Harassment by a landlord might include:   * removing or restricting essential services such as hot water or heating, or failing to pay bills so that these services are cut off * constant visits to the property, particularly if this occurs late at night or without warning * entering the accommodation when you are not there, or without your permission * tampering with mail * intentionally moving in other tenants who cause nuisance * threats of and actual violence.   If this is something that you are experiencing you might be eligible for legal advice and assistance funded by Legal Aid. Please call **Suffolk Law Centre** if you want further information or advice. **01473 408111**  Email: [office@suffolklawcentre.org.uk](mailto:office@suffolklawcentre.org.uk)  Further advice on illegal eviction and harassment can be found on the Shelter website:  <https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/eviction> |