

00:00:17:00 --:--:--
(narrator)
Welcome to the New York City
Housing Court.

00:00:19:00 --:--:--
As you can tell
by all the activity,

00:00:21:19 --:--:--
it's a pretty busy place.

00:00:23:29 --:--:--
Finding yourself in one
of its many resolution parts

00:00:26:20 --:--:--
I'm sure makes it
all the more confusing,

00:00:29:24 --:--:--
especially for those of you,
whether landlord or tenant,

00:00:32:28 --:--:--
who are here for the first time
and may be here on your own.

00:00:36:16 --:--:--
(man)
It's the 9:30 calendar call
for part E.

00:00:39:18 --:--:--
(narrator)
Before giving in
to the confusion or frustration,

00:00:43:03 --:--:--:--

let's see if we can't help make
the unfolding events of your day

00:00:47:05 --:--:--:--

go just a little more smoothly.

00:00:49:23 --:~:~:~:~

Perhaps a quick tour
of the facilities

00:00:51:23 --:~:~:~:~

and an introduction
to our courtroom staff

00:00:54:04 --:~:~:~:~

is a good place to begin
easing your anxiety.

00:00:58:00 --:~:~:~:~

Each courtroom--or part,
as it is sometimes called--

00:01:02:07 --:~:~:~:~

has its own rules
and procedures.

00:01:04:22 --:~:~:~:~

You should read
the posted rules.

00:01:06:21 --:~:~:~:~

(woman)

Hi. Good morning.

00:01:08:09 --:~:~:~:~

In order to check in,
you need your calendar number.

00:01:10:22 --:--:--:--

When you check in with me,

00:01:11:27 --:--:--:--

please indicate if you're ready
to work out a settlement,

00:01:14:07 --:--:--:--

whether you need to conference
the case before the judge,

00:01:16:13 --:--:--:--

or if you need to adjourn
your case today.

00:01:18:19 --:~:~:~:~:~

(narrator)

The court clerk is responsible
for keeping track

00:01:21:15 --:~:~:~:~:~

of every case scheduled
to be heard in the courtroom.

00:01:24:20 --:~:~:~:~:~

They know just about how
everything in the part works,

00:01:27:25 --:~:~:~:~:~

explaining procedures,

00:01:29:12 --:~:~:~:~:~

taking your requests
for apartment inspections,

00:01:31:28 --:--:--

as well as making sure
your papers are in order.

00:01:35:17 --:--:--

Helping enforce the rules of
the part is the court officer.

00:01:39:07 --:--:--

Easy to spot in any courtroom,

00:01:41:11 --:--:--

the court officer
is always in uniform.

00:01:42:24 --:--:--

(man)

If you're going to remain
in the courtroom,

00:01:44:08 --:--:--

you have to be quiet.

00:01:45:23 --:--:--

(narrator)

While their primary job is
to maintain order in the part,

00:01:49:04 --:--:--

handle any danger,
medical emergency,

00:01:51:12 --:--:--

or security breaches,

00:01:53:04 --:--:--

the court officer
spends much of the time

00:01:55:04 --:--:--
assisting people in locating
whatever services they need

00:01:58:26 --:--:--
from the general clerk's office

00:02:01:01 --:--:--
to the location of the
housing court day care centers

00:02:03:17 --:--:--
for those who need help caring
for young ones brought to court.

00:02:07:23 --:--:--
Here is one of our most critical
staff members.

00:02:10:26 --:--:--
The person at this desk
is one of two court attorneys

00:02:13:26 --:--:--
whose main responsibility
is to assist the judge.

00:02:17:12 --:--:--
Court attorneys are responsible
for working with the parties

00:02:20:19 --:--:--
to resolve their differences

00:02:22:09 --:--:--
and come up
with a settlement agreement,

00:02:24:19 --:--:--
which is the real purpose
of the resolution part.

00:02:27:23 --:--:--
Remember, you do not have
to speak to the other side

00:02:30:26 --:--:--
without the assistance of
the judge or a court attorney.

00:02:34:18 --:--:--
You may also be here
for a motion

00:02:37:03 --:--:--
or an order to show cause.

00:02:38:19 --:--:--
In some boroughs, mediators
who are housing court trained

00:02:43:00 --:--:--
in the resolution part's
operation

00:02:45:17 --:--:--
help by serving as
a neutral party to settle cases.

00:02:50:01 --:--:--
They can be found

in mediation centers,

00:02:52:04 --:--:--:--

where some litigants
have the opportunity

00:02:54:18 --:--:--:--

to resolve their own cases.

00:02:57:01 --:--:--:--

(woman)

When people leave mediation,
they've gone through a process

00:03:00:27 --:--:--:--

that lets them come to
a conclusion they can live with.

00:03:06:07 --:--:--:--

(narrator)

Now you know the staff.

00:03:07:24 --:--:--:--

Let's meet the judge.

00:03:09:13 --:--:--:--

Whether your case is resolved
in this part today,

00:03:12:01 --:--:--:--

whether you are
the landlord or the tenant,

00:03:14:09 --:--:--:--

be it a holdover proceeding

00:03:15:21 --:--:--:--

or an eviction
for nonpayment of rent,

00:03:17:20 --:--:--

an illegal lockout,

00:03:19:08 --:--:--

no case--whether you have an
attorney or represent yourself--

00:03:22:23 --:--:--

no case has to be settled
before you can request

00:03:26:05 --:--:--

that the judge of this part
hear from you.

00:03:29:03 --:--:--

If you or the other side
still cannot agree,

00:03:31:27 --:--:--

your case will be sent
to a trial part.

00:03:34:13 --:--:--

There you will be scheduled
for trial

00:03:36:18 --:--:--

either today
or in a future date.

00:03:39:13 --:--:--

Do not agree to settle a case

00:03:40:23 --:--:--:--
if you do not agree with
the terms of the settlement.

00:03:43:07 --:--:--:--
This is very important.

00:03:45:09 --:--:--:--
If you fail to follow through
with an agreement,

00:03:47:22 --:--:--:--
there may be
serious consequences.

00:03:51:04 --:--:--:--
If you need an interpreter,

00:03:52:20 00:03:54:26
the court will provide one
in your language.

00:03:57:29 --:~:~:~:~:~
So there it is--
really not all that difficult.

00:04:00:28 --:~:~:~:~:~
Just remember, your case
does not have to be finalized

00:04:03:19 --:~:~:~:~:~
until you've had
an opportunity

00:04:05:08 00:04:07:09
to present it
to court personnel.

