

TOWING Se My car was towed from my apartment complex! Is this legal?

To tow your vehicle without your consent, a towing company or owner/manager of an apartment complex must put you on notice that your vehicle could be towed.

VALID FORMS OF NOTICE INCLUDE:

Signs that were properly posted for the 24 hours before and during the time of towing Notice received by the vehicle's owner or operator that the vehicle will be towed if it is in an unauthorized space. This could be in your lease, or the community rules.

Notices attached to vehicle's windshield or sent by certified mail to the vehicle's owner.

Or any time a vehicle is left where it blocks traffic, gates, other parked cars, a fire lane, or an accessible space

Your landlord must also give you an <u>up-to-date copy</u> of the towing or parking rules and policies for your apartment complex. If you <u>did not receive</u> any of these types of notice, then your vehicle may have been towed unlawfully, and you can get your towing costs reimbursed.

What can I do if I think my vehicle has been towed unlawfully?

You have the right to a hearing with a judge if you think your vehicle was wrongly towed. If the judge decides that your vehicle was wrongfully towed, then you can get your money back for the costs of towing and storing the vehicle. If the towing company or parking storage facility knowingly or intentionally broke the law, then you may be able to get up to \$1000 plus three times the fees you paid. However, if the judge determines that the tow was lawful, then you will be ordered to pay the costs for towing and storing your vehicle.

You can request a hearing at any justice court in the county where your vehicle was You must request a hearing before the 14th day after the date your vehicle was towed

For more information, see: the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 2308; and the Texas Property Code 92.0131; and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, https://tdlr.texas.gov/towing/consumerinfo.htm;