

**For Further  
information on  
The City of Allentown  
Window Guard  
Ordinance,  
“Ahnelly’s Law”,  
Please contact:**

**THE BUREAU OF  
BUILDING STANDARDS  
AND SAFETY  
HOUSING INSPECTIONS**

**610-437-7694**



**WE HAVE  
AN INTEREST  
IN HELPING**

City of Allentown  
435 Hamilton Street, 3rd Floor  
Allentown, PA 18101-1699  
Phone: 610.437.7693



Ray O'Connell, Mayor

[www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov)

**CITY OF  
ALLENTOWN  
BUREAU OF BUILDING  
STANDARDS AND SAFETY**

**AHNELLY'S LAW  
WINDOW GUARD ORDINANCE**

On June 19, 2019, Allentown City Council passed Ahnelly's Law, which requires window guards on all windows in residential dwellings which have 3 or more units, in which children 10 years of age or younger reside or spend a considerable amount of time in the unit.

The bill is named after Ahnelly Grave Rivera, a 5-year-old, who in March 2019 tragically lost her life in a fall from a fourth-floor window.

The following information is provided as a guide for tenants who have questions regarding this law, and how it may benefit families who wish to request their landlords to install Window guards.

## HOW CAN A TENANT REQUEST A LANDLORD TO INSTALL A WINDOW GUARD?

By making the request in writing to the landlord in the same means that rental payments are made.

## AFTER MAKING THE REQUEST TO THE LANDLORD IN WRITING, HOW MUCH TIME IS THE LANDLORD GIVEN TO INSTALL THE WINDOW GUARD?

The landlord has 30 days to install the window guard. This is the time allowed for code compliance under the City of Allentown Property Maintenance and Rehabilitation Code.

## SHOULD A LANDLORD FAIL TO INSTALL THE WINDOW GUARD AFTER BEING REQUESTED IN WRITING TO DO SO, WHAT SHOULD A TENANT DO NEXT?

Contact the Bureau of Building Standards & Safety, Housing Inspections at  
610-437-7694  
to make a complaint.

A Housing Inspector will then investigate the complaint.

## DOES THE TENANT NEED TO REQUEST EACH SPECIFIC WINDOW TO HAVE THE GUARD INSTALLED?

Yes.

## IS THERE A MINIMUM WINDOW OPENING WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A WINDOW GUARD?

Yes. A window with a 4-inch opening.

## WILL THERE BE ANY ASSISTANCE FOR INSTALLING THESE GUARDS?

The City of Allentown Health Department is offering assistance for up to \$25.00 per window opening guard device as part of a grant received through  
The Highmark Foundation.

## IF THE CHILD BECOMES OLDER THAN 10 YEARS, CAN THE LANDLORD REMOVE THE WINDOW GUARD?

Yes, by a written request to the landlord. Once installed, a tenant shall not take down, change or remove any part of a window guard.

## WHO WILL INSPECT AND VERIFY THAT THE LANDLORD HAS INSTALLED THE WINDOW GUARD CORRECTLY?

The window guard must be installed within the guidelines of ASTM Standard ASTM F2090.

To qualify for the Window Guard grant through the City of Allentown Health Department and The Bureau of Building Standards & Safety, Housing Inspections will verify that The Window Guard Opening Device as been installed correctly.

## IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, DOES THE WINDOW GUARD HAVE A DEVICE ON IT WHICH AN ADULT CAN ACTIVATE TO OPEN THE WINDOW?

Yes, window guards meeting the ATSM Standards can be opened by an adult in case of an emergency.