Counselortalk Responses 2016

The only thing I can think of is that I've seen Channel 6 and other TV stations that will send out a reporter to do a story on a landlord if they don't take care of things like this....maybe the threat alone would be enough to get him to do something?

We had an incident recently with bed bugs and our director of facilities had received training.  He actually connected with the family and helped them with some cardboard type traps.  They had to come to school and change clothes when they got here and then put their clothes back on when they went home.  They did this and used the traps for 2 weeks and were cleared.

I don’t know of any organization that helps with this.  I was impressed with our Director of Facilities knowledge and he jumped right in to help educate.  Maybe that would be a person to contact in your district?

Diatomaceous earth when sprinkled around the floor will kill the bugs.



I called dcs this year when a landlord and a family could not agree on who had to pay.  They did get involved and it got resolved.



Is it determined for sure that the landlord would have to give permission for Community Partners?  I could see a court releasing the tenants from a rental agreement if the landlord will do nothing about bedbugs.  Maybe a bargaining chip to win the landlord's cooperation.

I made a DCS report several years ago for bedbugs at another school community.

It cost the school $900 to fumigate.

Every morning the students had to go directly to office and change into clothes that we put in the dryer the day before.

We rotated clothes each day. they could only wear clothes that were run through the dryer.

Their book bags and stuff from home were kept in a sealed container during the day.

DCS met with family and had them do things at home.

Once they complete those things - included spraying the home and providing a receipt for the supplies the file was closed.

Hope this helps.

Bed bugs can be rather expensive to get rid of.  I've heard that you basically have to get rid of furniture housing them and start over after treatment.

I am sure that the bites, when scratched, can cause infection for the individual.  We see that a lot.

Do you have any community programs that might help with the cost?  SCAN is used up around our district.



Are they in public housing? If so, they can use this as evidence of the landlord's responsibility: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=12-05hsgn.pdf>

This article is also helpful: <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/free-books/renters-rights-book/chapter7-5.html>

If they do any of these things, they need to keep documentation in case it ends up in civil court.

This is also a person's contact info that could give ideas. He is at the national level, so it might take awhile for him to get back to you, but he might have resources or alternative ideas:

Doug Farquhar

Program Director for Environmental Health National Conference of State Legislatures

Doug.farquhar@ncsl.org

303-856-1397

We have a local agency called SCAN that assists with home cleanup. Is there anyplace that focuses on child welfare in your city that could help?