

# Tenants of Benton mobile home park worry about future after given 30 days to vacate land

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*The sun isn't really shining at the Sunset Lake Mobile Home Park in Benton after the landlord terminated their leases. (Photo KATV)*

BENTON, Ark. (KATV) — The sun isn't really shining at the Sunset Lake Mobile Home Park in Benton after the landlord terminated their leases.

From continuous issues on the property like a lack of water to now being forced from their homes.

"We've went weeks at a time without water and we get threatened that the water will be off longer if we say anything," said tenant Jennifer Alloway.

Close to 100 tenants receiving a notice that said the landlord is terminating their lease in 30 days.

"We don't know what we're going to do," said Alloway. "It's very expensive to move a trailer. It's expensive. A lot of places aren't even allowing trailers to be put there anymore."

The news brought some to tears and left others outraged and scrambling to figure out what they will do for shelter.

"We have to move our home and I have nowhere to put it," said the Phifer family.

"[I'm] trying to keep a happy face for my kids, but honestly worried and anxious inside, trying to figure out what I'm going to do," said Alloway.

While trying to get answers from management, a guy in the office told us to leave, walked off and slammed the office door. He then sped away, something that doesn't come as a surprise to the tenants.

"He's a slumlord basically," said Alloway.

Wanting to know if there was any way to fight this issue, KATV reached out to legal counsel.

"The rights of the residents are going to depend on a few different things here," said Kendall Lewellen from the Center for Arkansas Legal Services. "First of all, they're going to depend on if the residents are buying or renting their homes. In general, those who are buying their homes are going to have a lot more rights than those who are renting."

It's a fine line of legality and ethics. One that residents hope the landlord and owner can put more thought into before they are left homeless.

"How he can sleep at night," asked Aloway. "How he can do this to all these families that have been paying his bills? Yeah, he's the landlord, but we've been feeding money into his pockets and he's just basically like 'good luck, thanks for nothing'."

With rumors circulating that the property would be turned into a waterpark, KATV reached out to city officials in Benton to see their involvement in the sale of the land.

"The City of Benton has no plan or agreement to build a water park around Sunset Lake," said Mayor Tom Farmer. "Furthermore, the city was approached by the landowner of Sunset Lake Mobile Home RV park about the purchase of his property. We agreed on a price with the owner and told the owner that the city is not in the rental or eviction business, and the city would purchase lots as the lots became available. The Landowner said that he would give his tenants plenty of time to find a new location and that he would help them relocate."

The [Center for Arkansas Legal Services](#) is offering free legal help to anyone in the state with issues such as these.