



# Frequently Asked Questions

1.

## **What is the TCI Informal Settlements Unit (ISU)**

The Turks and Caicos Islands Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) is a government organisation tasked with finding solutions to the growing challenges experienced within and by informal settlements across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

2.

## **What are Informal Settlements?**

The short and simple answer is that an informal settlement is any area comprising illegally built structures, but the reality is far more complex.



3.

## **How do I know if my land papers are legitimate and registered correctly?**

If you have no documentation showing your title to the land or if you have documentation that has not been registered with the land registry, you are considered to be squatting. In either of these instances, you will receive a notice from the Crownland unit informing you of your status as a squatter.

4.

## **How do I know if I am squatting on Crown Land?**

If you do not have any official documentation from the Land Registry demonstrating your title to the land, it is likely that you are squatting. If you are unsure, you should check the property ownership records at the Land Registry or hire a professional surveyor or an attorney to determine the legal status of the land. It is essential to ensure you have the right to occupy and use the property to avoid legal issues.

**5.**

***How do I know if my area is scheduled for reclamation?***

*A notice will be placed on the property and that notice will also be published in the Gazette. The notice will tell you of the offence and the course of action that will be taken in the case of non-compliance with said notice.*

**6.**

***Someone sold me land and I have a receipt. I have since learned that the land was Crown Land and not theirs to sell. What should I do?***

*If the property is Crown Land then you need to contact the Crown Land Unit who will investigate the issue and refer you to the relevant authorities if a fraudulent act has been committed. Under section 23(1) of the Crown Land Ordinance, it is an offence for a person to purport to sell or lease Crown Land to another person without lawful authority or title to do so, whether or not any purchase price or rent is paid.*

**7.**

***Someone built on my land illegally, how do I evict them?***

*If you are a private land owner, you have the authority to legally remove trespassers. Serve the squatter with an eviction notice. Be sure to follow any local requirements about the information that must be included in the eviction notice. You may also apply to the court to have the individual evicted if they refuse to leave after their notice period expires. If you have a registered Conditional Purchase Lease you need to contact the Crown Land Unit who will review the information and take the appropriate action to assist in the reclamation of the land.*

It takes all of us to build **safer, more sustainable communities** in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



**For more information  
visit the ISU Office**

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