

April 1, 2020

Dear Legal Aid of Sonoma County
clients and tenants,



We have drafted a sample letter for you to provide to your housing provider in the event you are unable to pay your rent.

The letter explains that there is a new governmental decision to postpone the date you are required to pay the rent if you are having a big loss of income for reasons related to the Coronavirus.

To take advantage of this protection, you need to show your housing provider why you cannot pay.

Here are some types of documents that you can attach to the letter:

- Letter or email from your employer
- Medical bills
- Letter or email from your child's school
- Invoices that show reduction in sales or business income
- Anything else that shows your reduced income is related to the Coronavirus circumstances

Please call our hotline for additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Legal Aid Housing Team

Date:

Tenant Name:

Tenant Address:

Re: Sonoma County's COVID-19 Eviction Defense Ordinance

Dear Housing Provider:

Please be advised that Sonoma County's COVID-19 Eviction Defense Ordinance has entered into effect and prohibits housing providers from terminating a tenancy for failure to pay rent when a tenant cannot pay rent as a result of substantial loss of income or substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic or any governmental measure in response to it. The Ordinance applies to all jurisdictions in Sonoma County.

A housing provider cannot initiate proceedings against any tenant for failure to pay rent until 60 days after all emergency orders applicable to the COVID-19 pandemic are no longer in effect.

I am a tenant residing at the premises of your property located within Sonoma County. The Ordinance applies to my situation because one of the following applies to my circumstances.

I have experienced (check all that apply):

(1) a substantial loss of income from:

job loss;

layoff;

a reduction in the number of compensable hours of work;

a store restaurant, office or business closure; or,

a substantial decrease in business income caused by a reduction in opening hours or consumer demand;

the need to miss work to care for a home-bound school-age child or a family member ill with coronavirus;

or,

other similarly-caused loss of income resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; or,

(2) substantial out of pocket medical expenses resulting from COVID-19.

I respectfully invoke the protection of this Ordinance. Please find attached evidence of the COVID-19's direct and/or indirect impact on my ability to pay the rent. **(Add supporting documentation: Doctor's bills, Hospital paperwork, layoff notification, etc.)**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tenant Name: _____

Tenant Signature: _____