

April 7, 2020



NEW INFORMATION ABOUT EVICTIONS AND COURT OPERATIONS

A new Statewide Emergency Rule now ***prevents any Court from issuing eviction summons*** against tenants ***for any reason***, other than if necessary to protect health and safety (such as a tenant who is physically abusing another tenant or their landlord). This rule will remain in effect for ***90 days after the governor lifts the state of emergency***, unless the rule is changed or eliminated before then.

What happens after the Sonoma Court reopens?

Tenants are still protected even after the local court resumes regular operations. Even if the Sonoma County court opens on Monday May 4, 2020, the new Emergency Rule will still be in place, and still prevents any evictions from moving forward until 90 days after the governor lifts the state of emergency.

Do I still have to pay rent while the Emergency Rule is in place?

Yes! Tenants are still required to pay the rent if they are able to. Your landlord cannot evict you while the Rule is in place, but you still must pay the rent. Once the emergency is over, your landlord will be able to collect all the rent you owe and may evict you if it's not paid.

If you are unable to pay the rent because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Legal Aid still recommends that you gather evidence to demonstrate that your income was negatively impacted by the pandemic. You should also let your landlord know, in writing, why you can't pay the rent. This may assist you later when evictions are once again permitted.

Please call the Legal Aid Housing Hotline during business hours if you need help or have any questions about your rights.

HOUSING HOTLINE: (707) 843-4432