

Dear County Board of Supervisors:

Please help to reduce the fraud in connection with COVID-related relief. In the State of California, we are all painfully aware of the abuses that have been and continue to be perpetrated by individuals who took and continue to take advantage of the relief provided in light of the COVID pandemic. While various laws have been promulgated to protect those impacted negatively by COVID, rental property owners have not been able to address fraudulent claims of COVID hardship. Property owners have had no way of collecting past due rents or evicting tenants who are actively defrauding.

It is time to address this specific type of fraud and inequity of being allowed to claim relief from making contractual payments and yet providing no support for that request. We are specifically requesting the county create a requirement for renters who have requested COVID rent protections to provide basic information to the owners establishing they are and/or were entitled to such. Fraudulent COVID claims for relief should not only be investigated, but there should also be consequences for those making fraudulent claims and getting benefits as a result. To ensure accountability, we believe there should be additions to local anti-tenant harassment protections, to address this specific fraud and limited to this specific fraud.

Hopefully, you will support our need to address this by

1. Creating a new form that requires all those who claimed COVID hardship to also provide a basis for such a request to the rental property owner. Please see attached [Basis for COVID Hardship Declaration Form](#).
 - a. Failure to provide the Basis for COVID Hardship Declaration Form within seven days will result in a forfeiture of COVID-related protections.
 - b. Failure to provide consent to the rental property owner for third-party verification of financial information proving COVID-related hardship will result in a forfeiture of COVID-related protections.
2. Excluding basic inquiries into the claim of an inability to pay as a result of COVID from current anti-tenant harassment protections.
3. Allowing the ability to bring an unlawful detainer action against tenants that have perpetrated fraud upon the owner by fraudulently claiming they were unable to pay rent as a result of COVID.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

(Your Name Here)