



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AB 1414 – Tenant Screening & Data Security

Effective: January 1, 2026

1. What is the focus of AB 1414?

AB 1414 addresses tenant screening data security, transparency, and accountability, especially involving third-party screening vendors.

2. Does AB 1414 ban tenant screening reports?

No. It does not prohibit screening but emphasizes responsible use and data protection.

3. Who does AB 1414 apply to?

Landlords and property managers who use consumer reporting agencies or screening services.

4. Are landlords responsible for screening company data breaches?

Landlords are expected to exercise reasonable oversight and select vendors with proper security measures.

5. Does AB 1414 change screening criteria?

No. Screening standards remain at the landlord's discretion, subject to existing fair housing laws.

6. Are adverse action notices affected?

The law reinforces proper handling and transparency around adverse action decisions.

7. What should landlords review now?

Vendor contracts, data storage practices, and breach response protocols.

8. Does AB 1414 apply to paper applications?

It primarily targets electronic data, but best practices apply broadly.

9. Are small landlords affected?

Yes, if they use third-party screening services.

10. Does AB 1414 create new penalties?

It increases compliance expectations and potential liability if data handling is negligent.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Assuming screening vendors handle all compliance
- Failing to review data-security provisions in contracts
- Ignoring breach notification responsibilities
- Storing applicant data longer than necessary

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