



Notice of Tenant Protection Ordinance

In March 2017, the City Council adopted the Tenant Protection Ordinance, to prohibit illegal evictions through the use of fraudulent and/or misleading representations, intimidating conduct, and coercive conduct.

Among other things, the Tenant Protection Ordinance prohibits conduct that may coerce a tenant to vacate a rental unit involuntarily. The following is only a summary of the illegal conduct; for a complete list, you are advised to review the attached copy of the Tenant Protection Ordinance, or review Berkeley Municipal Code 13.79.060.

Landlords must not, in bad faith, engage in any of the following conduct:

- Lies, threats, or use of violence to induce a Tenant to move.
- Threats regarding immigration status.
- Disruption of services to the rental unit.
- Interference with the right of privacy, including inquiries about immigration status.
- Abuse of the right of access to the rental unit.
- Exploitation of disabilities or other traits of the Tenant.
- Failure to perform and complete repairs in a timely and professional manner.
- Threats not to perform repairs and maintenance.
- Failure to accept or acknowledge receipt of a Tenant's rent, or to promptly deposit the rent, or to refuse to provide a receipt.
- Violations of the Tenant Buyout Ordinance (B.M.C.13.79.050)
- Engagement of any Tenant in any form of human trafficking as a condition of that Tenant's continued occupancy of a Rental Unit.

Note: A tenant aggrieved by violations of the Tenant Protection Ordinance may bring a civil action in court against the landlord. Violators may be held liable for damages (including emotional distress, and an additional penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation against any person who is disabled or age sixty-five or over), court costs, and attorney's fees. For violations related to repairs, Tenants must first provide fifteen days' notice of the violations (see B.M.C. 13.79.060.E.2).

The City, or the Rent Board at the City's behest, may also file a civil action to enforce the Tenant Protection Ordinance.

If you are experiencing any of the conduct detailed above, you may contact the Rent Board for more information, at (510) 981-7368 or rent@cityofberkeley.info.

This disclosure notice is required to be provided at the inception of any tenancy beginning after April 2017, and must be included with any eviction notice. Failure to include this notice is a defense to unlawful detainer (eviction).