COVID-19 EVICTION MORATORIUM

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a nation-wide temporary eviction moratorium for certain tenants through **January 31, 2021.** Additionally, the Texas Supreme Court has issued an order in support of the CDC's declared moratorium.

DO YOU QUALIFY?

If these five statements apply to you, you may qualify for this order.

- ❑ You have done your best to take advantage of government assistance for housing and rent
- ❑ You meet income requirements, meaning ONE of these is true:
  - You will earn less than $99,000 (or $198,000 when combined with your spouse) this year
  - You weren't required to pay taxes in 2019
  - You qualified for an income stimulus check earlier this year
- ❑ You are unable to make your full rent or housing payment because of a loss of income or large medical expense
- ❑ You are currently doing your best to make timely partial housing payments that are as close to the full payment as possible
- ❑ If evicted, you would either become homeless or enter a shared living space (like living with a family member or staying at a shelter).

THIS FLYER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE.
Eligibility and qualification requirements described here are determined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Individuals should contact the resources listed on this form for help determining their eligibility.

YOUR NEXT STEPS:

1. **Every adult listed on your lease should fill out the declaration on the back of this flyer.**
2. **Take the declaration(s) to your landlord.**
3. **Make sure to document that you delivered the declaration — by video, by getting a signature, or through certified mail.**

Please note that this order only **delays evictions.** You are still required to pay rent and other housing payments, including late fees and penalties. You still need to follow the terms of your lease or other contract — this order does not prevent evictions for reasons other than delinquent payments.

MORE QUESTIONS?

You can read the full CDC Order at:

http://bit.ly/cdc-rent

You can read the Texas Supreme Court order at:

http://bit.ly/cdc-housing

Or look at additional resources:

United Way of Greater Houston
http://referral.unitedwayhouston.org/

LONE STAR LEGAL AID
https://lonestarlegal.blog/covid-19-eviction-resources/

HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS — A Service of The Houston Bar Association
https://texaslawhelp.org/article/eviction

EVICTION DEFENSE COALITION — Eviction Right to Counsel — 713-982-7340

If you need help, call the Eviction Defense Coalition Hotline:

713-982-7340

City of Houston, Texas — Mayor Sylvester Turner

City of Houston Housing and Community Development

12/22/20

COVID-19 EVICTION MORATORIUM

DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S TEMPORARY HALT IN EVICTIONS TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19

This declaration is for tenants, lessees, or residents of residential properties who are covered by the CDC's order temporarily halting residential evictions (not including foreclosures on home mortgages) to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Under the CDC's order you must provide a copy of this declaration to your landlord, owner of the residential property where you live, or other person who has a right to have you evicted or removed from where you live. Each adult listed on the lease, rental agreement, or housing contract should complete this declaration. Unless the CDC order is extended, changed, or ended, the order prevents you from being evicted or removed from where you are living through January 31, 2021. You are still required to pay rent and follow all the other terms of your lease and rules of the place where you live. You may also still be evicted for reasons other than not paying rent or making a housing payment. This declaration is sworn testimony, meaning that you can be prosecuted, go to jail, or pay a fine if you lie, mislead, or omit important information.

I certify under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, that the foregoing are true and correct:

- I have used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing;
- I either expect to earn no more than $99,000 in annual income for Calendar Year 2020 (or no more than $198,000 if filing a joint tax return), was not required to report any income in 2019 to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or received an Economic Impact Payment (stimulus check) pursuant to Section 2201 of the CARES Act;
- I am unable to pay my full rent or make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses;
- I am using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as the individual's circumstances may permit, taking into account other nondiscretionary expenses;
- If evicted I would likely become homeless, need to move into a homeless shelter, or need to move into a new residence shared by other people who live in close quarters because I have no other available housing options.
- I understand that I must still pay rent or make a housing payment, and comply with other obligations that I may have under my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract. I further understand that fees, penalties, or interest for not paying rent or making a housing payment on time as required by my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract may still be charged or collected.
- I further understand that at the end of this temporary halt on evictions on January 31, 2021, my housing provider may require payment in full for all payments not made prior to and during the temporary halt and failure to pay may make me subject to eviction pursuant to State and local laws.

I understand that any false or misleading statements or omissions may result in criminal and civil actions for fines, penalties, damages, or imprisonment.

Signature of Declarant **Date**

The authority for this Order is Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) and 42 CFR 70.2. Dated: September 1, 2020. Effective: September 4, 2020.

"Available government assistance" means any governmental rental or housing payment benefits available to the individual or any household member.
An "extraordinary" medical expense is any unreimbursed medical expense likely to exceed 7.5% of one's adjusted gross income for the year.
"Available housing" means any available, unoccupied residential property, or other space for occupancy in any seasonal or temporary housing, that would not violate Federal, State, or local occupancy standards and that would not result in an overall increase of housing cost to you.

Mayor Sylvester Turner

CITY OF HOUSTON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT