









# **California Tenants**

A Guide To Residential Tenants' and Landlords' Rights and Responsibilities

January 2023

Click here to download a printable copy of the guide &

#### Disclaimer

*California Tenants – A Guide to Residential Tenants' and Landlords' Rights and Responsibilities* was written initially by the Department of Consumer Affairs' Legal Affairs Division and substantially revised by the Department of Real Estate's Legal Division in 2020. The Legal Division updated the booklet in 2021 and 2022 to reflect recent legislative activity during those years. The Department of Real Estate's Communications and Publications Division is responsible for publishing the booklet. The opinions expressed in this booklet are those of the authors and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any official or agency of the State of California. To ensure the document is useful for the vast majority of readers, the authors have endeavored to balance the competing objectives of providing accurate, current, and complete information of the law without overwhelming readers with nuanced detail and legalese. As a result, not every subject is addressed with the same level of detail. This booklet is intended for informational purposes only and is not legal advice. To the extent that readers have questions or need further guidance, readers should consult an attorney, legal aid society, landlord association, or tenant advocacy group for advice in particular cases, and should also read the relevant statutes and court decisions when relying on cited material.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

#### INTRODUCTION

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

### WHO IS A LANDLORD AND WHO IS A TENANT?

LOOKING FOR A RENTAL UNIT

#### **BEFORE YOU AGREE TO RENT**

#### WHEN YOU HAVE DECIDED TO RENT

#### LIVING IN THE RENTAL UNIT

**DEALING WITH PROBLEMS** 

**MOVING OUT** 

**TERMINATIONS AND EVICTIONS** 

**RESOLVING PROBLEMS** 

GLOSSARY

APPENDIX 1 – OCCUPANTS NOT NAMED IN EVICTION LAWSUIT OR WRIT OF POSSESSION

APPENDIX 2 - LIST OF CITIES WITH RENT CONTROL ORDINANCES (AS OF 2019)

APPENDIX 3 - TENANT INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

**APPENDIX 4 - OTHER RESOURCES** 

# **APPENDIX 5 - LEGALLY REQUIRED TEXT OF NOTICES**

# **INVENTORY CHECKLIST**

Back to Top Conditions of Use Privacy Policy Accessibility Contact Us

Copyright © 2023 State of California