



California Tenants -- Letter if you are a tenant who is being retaliated against by your landlord

Instructions:

1. [Click here to open a Microsoft Word version of this sample letter](#)
2. The Microsoft Word-version will have the same blank spaces as this version, but will not have the comments in the margin. Fill out the blanks in the Microsoft Word-version using the comments on the margins of this version as a guide.
3. This sample letter if you are a tenant who is being retaliated against by your landlord.
4. Please note that you should **tailor this letter to the facts in your case**. This template is **not a substitute for legal advice**. If you need help finding a tenant attorney, please see the [Tenants Together Directory](#).
5. Once filled out with your information, keep a copy for your records.

Sent via Certified Mail- Return Receipt Requested

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Comment [AI1]: Date

()

Comment [AI2]: Full name of landlord and/or property manager

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Comment [AI3]: Address of landlord and/or property manager

Dear (),

Comment [AI4]: Full name of landlord and/or property manager

I () am a tenant at (). I am writing because I have been subjected to retaliation for exercising my rights under the law.

Comment [AI5]: Tenant's Name(s)

Comment [AI6]: Address, City, State, ZIP

The reason for my concern is

(

_____)

Comment [AI7]: Describe each instance of retaliation, including why you were retaliated against.

California law makes clear that retaliation is prohibited. A landlord cannot increase rent, decrease housing services, terminate tenancy, attempt to recover possession, or threaten any of these, in retaliation for a tenant's exercise of his or her rights. California Civil Code §1942.5.

In fact, such acts are presumed to be retaliatory if they occur within 180 days of me exercising my rights as a tenant. A landlord who engages in retaliatory acts may be liable for actual damages, punitive damages of not less than \$100 nor more than \$2,000 for each retaliatory act, and attorney's fees. California Civil Code §1942.5(f).

I demand that you refrain from any further acts of retaliation.

Sincerely,

(
)
(
)

Comment [A18]: Your signature

Comment [A19]: Your full name